



Visa Medicals

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Australia enjoys some of the best health standards in the world. In order to maintain these standards everyone entering Australia must meet health requirements.

If you are planning to visit or live in Australia, and are not an Australian citizen or permanent resident, you must meet certain health requirements before a visa can be granted. This means that you may be asked to undergo a health examination.

Most applicants for permanent visas, and temporary or provisional visas that lead to the grant of a permanent visa, are required to undergo health examinations for permanent entry to Australia.

When To arrange your health Examination

Applicants outside Australia

Do not attend a health examination before you lodge your visa application unless the information about your visa specifically asks you to do so. Otherwise, you will be advised by the department if and when to attend a health examination.

Applicants in Australia

You may attend your health examination before lodging your application for a visa as it is a formal requirement for some visas. You should check the detailed information provided on the visa application form to confirm when you need to undergo a health examination.

How to arrange a health examination

Applicants outside Australia

You must arrange your health examination with a Panel doctor and/or Panel radiology clinic nominated by the Australian Government. Unless otherwise indicated, health examinations conducted overseas are only acceptable if conducted by a Panel doctor/radiologist.

You will be advised by the department if a medical and/or radiological examination is required as part of your visa application.

If you require both a medical and radiological examination you can arrange an appointment with a Panel clinic that performs both medical and radiological examinations. Alternatively you can initially arrange an appointment for your medical examination with a Panel doctor who will refer you to an associated Panel radiology clinic for your chest x-ray.

If you only require a radiological examination, you may need a referral from a doctor in order to make an appointment with a Panel radiology clinic or you may be able to make an appointment directly with a Panel radiology clinic. If you are unsure, contact your preferred Panel radiology clinic to see if a referral is necessary. If a referral is required, you do not need to attend a Panel doctor to obtain a referral. Instead you may obtain a referral from your local doctor.

After you have lodged your application, the processing office may provide you with the health examination forms and a list of Panel doctors.

You can also obtain a list of Panel doctors and radiology clinics in your country, territory or region that are authorised to perform medical and radiological examinations at:

www.immi.gov.au/contacts/panel-doctors/

Applicants in Australia

Visa applicants in Australia need to contact Health Services Australia (HSA) to arrange a health examination.

If you are not well and you have a medical certificate from your treating doctor, you should ask the department about the option of having your HSA medical examination conducted at your own home. The cost of a medical examination at your home is higher than the cost of having a medical examination at HSA.

Health examination costs

You are responsible for paying any fees and costs associated with the examinations, including those of the examining doctor, radiological examination, special tests and investigations, treatment and specialists.

You should expect examination fees to be similar to those charged locally for a comprehensive examination or report by a qualified medical practitioner. You should ask about the fees in advance and expect itemised receipts to be issued.

What to take to the health examination

You are usually required to take the following to your health examination:

- your passport, and a photocopy of the page that includes your photograph,
 - name and date of birth for identification
 - your prescription spectacles or contact lenses
 - existing specialist and/or other relevant medical reports for known medical conditions
 - previous chest x-rays
 - Forms 26EH and/160EH for online applications
- or**
- Forms 26 and/or 160 for paper applications.

After your health examination

After your health examination the reports will be sent to the department, by the doctor.

The doctor will not tell you the results of the medical examination. However, the doctor will let you know if you have a health-related problem.

Once commenced, all medical reports and x-rays for the health examination become the property of the department and cannot be returned to you.

The doctor does not make the final decision on whether or not you meet the health requirement for your visa application. This decision will be made following an assessment by the immigration department.

If you do not meet the health requirement and your visa application is refused, you may have review rights depending on the type of application you have lodged. The department will notify you of your review rights and provide you with information on how to apply for a review.

Health examination results

Health examination results are generally valid for 12 months from the date the examination was assessed. If you have completed a health examination within the last 12 months, these health results may be used for your current visa application. However, different visas and different lengths of stay in Australia may require greater formal assessments. Your case officer will advise you if you need to undertake a new health examination.

Re-use of medicals

Current visa holders who apply for a new visa within a certain period of time after being granted their current visa may be able to use the medicals that they completed for their current visa again for their new visa application.

Resources

The information in this PDF has been taken from the DIAC website www.immi.gov.au and was correct at the time of publication 18/11/09.

For up to date information on visa medicals please visit www.immi.gov.au

Immigration Panel Doctors

A Panel doctor is a doctor or a radiologist who has been appointed by the Australian Government to perform medical examinations on visa applicants who have applied from outside Australia.

Medical examinations conducted overseas are generally only acceptable if conducted by Panel doctors.

To find a panel doctor in your area visit:

www.immi.gov.au/contacts/panel-doctors/

While every effort is made to keep the Panel doctor list as up to date as possible, the Australian Government does not guarantee the accuracy and completeness of the list. When contacting a Panel member from this list, you should confirm with them that they remain appointed to the Australian Panel.

Where a listing for a country or an area within a country does not appear, you should attend the closest Panel doctor or contact your case officer for further advice.