

BACKPACK AUSTRALIA

The Ultimate Visa & Arrival Checklist & Arrival Checklist



All information in this Starter Pack is accurate and up to date as of August 2026. If you'd like to verify anything, please feel free to check it yourself.

Quick Pro-Tip: Apply for your TFN on day one of arrival in Australia. It takes up to 28 days to arrive, but you need it to avoid maximum tax withholding rates on your first paychecks!

1. Before You Apply (Subclass 417 / 462)

- **Valid Passport:** Must have at least 6+ months validity remaining beyond your planned trip.
- **Second Photo ID:** Official Driver's Licence or National Identity Card.
- **Certified Documentation:** Digital copy of your official Birth Certificate and certified English translations if applicable.
- **Proof of Funds:** Official bank statement showing a minimum of \$5,000 AUD balance.
- **Onward Travel Capacity:** A pre-booked return ticket OR sufficient additional funds to purchase departure flights.

2. The Application Process

- **ImmiAccount Setup:** Register directly on the official Australian Department of Home Affairs website.
- **Application Form:** Complete the Subclass 417 (Working Holiday) or Subclass 462 (Work and Holiday) form.
- **Document Upload:** Attach high-resolution, legible color scans of all required identity and financial records.
- **Application Fee:** Pay the mandatory visa processing fee (\$840 AUD).
- **VEVO Verification:** Once approved, download your Grant Notice and check your visa status on VEVO.

3. First 72 Hours: Arrival Survival Guide

- **Airport Transfers:** Opt for public buses or express train links to skip expensive private airport taxis.
- **Local Connectivity:** Activate an Australian eSIM or physical SIM (Telstra, Optus, or Vodafone network).
- **Bank Account Activation:** Visit a branch (CommBank, NAB, ANZ, or Westpac) with your passport to finalize ID checks.
- **Tax File Number (TFN):** Submit your free ATO online application using your Australian residential/hostel address.
- **MyGov Portal:** Create a secure myGov account and link the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and Medicare.
- **Superannuation Account:** Select an industry super fund so your employers can deposit your retirement super guarantee.
- **Healthcare & OVHC:** Enrol in Medicare if eligible (Reciprocal Health Care Agreement) or secure Overseas Visitor Health Cover (OVHC).

4. Scam Prevention Checklist

- **Upfront Fee Traps:** Legitimate employers never charge for applications, onboarding, or basic safety training.
- **Rental Inspections:** Never wire bond or rent before inspecting a room/flat in person or via trusted video tour.
- **ABN Verification:** Always verify prospective employers and contractors on the official Australian Business Register.
- **Fair Work Compliance:** Ensure you receive formal payslips and award-compliant minimum hourly or piece rates.

Looking for work? We can help.

Backpack Australia has direct **contact with over 4,000 employers across Australia** who can hire working holiday makers just like you. If you want to skip the crowded job boards, our premium, hands-on service connects you straight to employers who are able to recruit you. hello@backpackaustralia.com.au

Get started today: Email us at hello@backpackaustralia.com.au

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