



# **RESTRICTIONS ON DEPARTURE FROM AUSTRALIA BY AIRCRAFT**

## **Restrictions on Australian citizens and permanent residents departing Australia**

On 24 March 2020 the Prime Minister announced that effective from 1200 hrs 25 March 2020 all Australian citizens and permanent residents will be prohibited for travel out of Australia unless exempted.

The Minister for Health, under the Commonwealth Biosecurity Act, Human Biosecurity Emergency provisions s477 and s478 hereby directs that no Australian (citizen or permanent resident) may leave Australia by air or sea as of 1200 hrs (at the place of departure) on 25 March 2020.

### **Exemptions apply**

The following travellers are exempt from the 'outbound' travel restrictions:

- Persons ordinarily resident in a country other than Australia.
- Persons whose travel is associated with essential work at offshore facilities.
- Persons engaged in the day to day conduct of outbound and inbound freight.
- Persons travelling on official Government business and members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF)
- Airline and maritime crew and associated safety workers.
- Further guidance for airlines on these exemptions is provided in [Attachment A](#).

### **Additional Australian Border Force (ABF) support for airlines**

- Additional ABF officers are being deployed to check-in counters and the Australian Border Operations Centre (ABOC) to support airline staff.
- The Advanced Passenger Processing system is being updated to provide a blanket 'Do Not Board' refer all Australian citizens and permanent resident visa holders.
- Airlines are permitted to perform an 'A' override for exempt travellers.
- ABOC staff will be able to assist airlines who cannot perform an 'A' override.

### **If travellers are seeking a Commissioner's Discretion/Exemption Request**

The Commissioner of the Australian Border Force (ABF) may consider an exemption in relation to the travel restrictions currently in place for:

- Persons whose travel is as part of the response to the COVID-19 outbreak, including the provision of aid.
- Persons whose travel is essential for the conduct of critical industries and business (including export and import industries)
- Persons who are travelling to receive urgent medical treatment that is not available in Australia.
- Persons who are travelling on urgent and unavoidable personal business.
- On compassionate or humanitarian grounds.
- Where the travel is in the national interest.

**All current travel restrictions and self-isolation requirements on entry to Australia remain in place.**

These arrangements are under constant review as the COVID-19 situation evolves, and will be revised based on updated health advice.

### **Arrangements for flights departing Australia**

- From 1200 hrs 25 March 2020, airline staff should ensure that only exempt Australian citizens and permanent residents board a flight departing Australia.
- Where possible, the Australian Advanced Passenger Processing will be used to deny uplift for Australian citizens and permanent residents who are not exempt.
- Airlines must contact the Border Operations Centre at +61 1300 368 126 prior to non-exempt travellers boarding the flight.



## Australian BORDER FORCE

### Additional messages for Australian citizens and permanent residents

- Please do not attempt to depart Australia unless you meet an existing exemption.
- Please note that these restrictions only apply to international departures.
- You may put the health and wellbeing of Australians at risk if you do not follow this advice.
- All current travel restrictions and self-isolation requirements on [entry to Australia](#) remain in place.

### Talking points for industry

- From 1200 hrs 25 March 2020, Australian citizens, New Zealanders who ordinarily reside in Australia and permanent residents will not be allowed to depart Australia unless exempt.
- All current travel restrictions and self-isolation requirements on [entry to Australia](#) remain in place.
- The health and wellbeing of Australians is at risk from travellers who do not adhere to this advice.
- There are no changes to the entry requirements at this time. **Travellers should be aware that these requirements are under constant review and their ability to return is subject to change at any time.**
- Officers will be confirming status of departing travellers at the departures primary line. Failure to identify passengers subject to restriction may lead to delays if the need to be offloaded from flights.

#### Commissioner's Discretion link via -

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/news-media/current-alerts/novel-coronavirus>

For general information concerning the Novel Coronavirus please refer to the Department of Health website (<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>)

The Australian Border Force appreciates your ongoing support and cooperation during this time.



## **Attachment A – Guidance for Airlines**

### **How to determine if someone is a person ordinarily resident in a country other than Australia.**

- Persons travelling to a country they hold citizenship for they can leave (i.e. USA national on a USA passport).
- Persons travelling to a country they hold permanent residency need to provide evidence of their visa (i.e. Canadian citizen travelling to the USA will need to provide evidence that they have residency in the USA – would be similar requirement for uplift to enter most countries).

### **How to determine who is a safety worker.**

- A safety worker is someone who is involved or responsible for the development, management or monitoring of safety of the aviation, maritime and transport sectors (i.e. engineer, technicians, safety coordinators). Travellers should provide evidence of their employment and reason for travel.
- All other safety workers should apply for an exemption under Commissioner's Discretion process.

### **How to determine who is an essential worker to an offshore facility (i.e. oil and gas installations).**

- Anyone who is working physically on an offshore facility (i.e. oil and gas facility) is considered an essential worker.
- Travellers should provide evidence of their employment and reason for travel.

### **How to determine that someone is travelling on official government business, including members of the Australian Defence Force.**

- Anyone travelling on an official passport or with military orders.

### **How is compassionate travel confirmed?**

- Travellers will need to apply for an exemption through the Commissioner's Discretion process. Airline staff must call BOC to confirm that approval is in place.

### **Additional Guidance**

Non-resident Australian citizens are allowed to leave to return to their principle place of residence or under one of the exemptions listed above.

New Zealand SCV 444 visa holders and permanent residents ordinarily living in Australia will be required to apply for an exemption through the Commissioner's Discretion process.

Australian permanent residents and New Zealand citizens who normally reside in Australia are allowed to leave Australia under an exemption. Travellers exempted in these cases can re-enter if they meet current entry conditions.

- Travellers should be aware that these requirements are under constant review and their ability to return is subject to change at any time.

### **Commissioner's Discretion link via -**

**<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/news-media/current-alerts/novel-coronavirus>**