



Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2011

If you are visiting Australia to attend CHOGM 2011, you must be registered and accredited to participate. If you are not an Australian citizen, you must apply for, and be granted, a visa to travel to and enter Australia. There are some limited exceptions to the requirement to apply for a visa before travel.¹

You are advised to apply for an appropriate type of short stay business visitor visa. Visas in this category include online eVisitor (Business Entrant) (subclass 651), online Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) (Business Entrant) (subclass 977) visas, and Business (Short Stay) (subclass 456) visas.

Regardless of your role in CHOGM, you must have one of the above visas. For example, if you are a delegate, a media representative, support staff or assisting in the organisation of the event, you must have a visa.

You will only be eligible for an online ETA or eVisitor if you hold an eligible passport. If you do not hold an eligible passport, you must lodge an application for a Business (Short Stay) (subclass 456) visa with your nearest Australian visa office. The information on the following pages will help you identify the correct visa and application process.

It is important that delegates apply for visas well in advance of their expected date of travel.

Event participants

Delegations/delegates travelling to Australia for CHOGM (including parallel events)

If you are part of an official government delegation, before you lodge an application for a visa to attend CHOGM 2011, your details must be registered in the CHOGM 2011 Event Management System (EMS) by the Designated Accreditation Officer (DAO) for your country. If you are attending a CHOGM 2011 parallel event you must register your attendance with your parallel event organiser before you lodge an application for a visa.

For more information on designated accreditation officers and the accreditation process, contact:

Accreditation general inquiries
CHOGM 2011 Taskforce
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
PO Box 6500 Barton ACT Australia 2600
Telephone: +61 02 6271 6222
Email: accreditation@chogm2011.org

Once your registration has been confirmed, you will receive an Accreditation Certificate from your DAO or parallel event organiser. Do not apply for a visa until you have received this certificate.

If you are lodging a Business (Short Stay) (subclass 456) application, you must submit a photocopy of the Accreditation Certificate with your application. You must carry the original Accreditation Certificate

¹ New Zealand passport holders may apply for a Special Category visa on arrival and permanent residents of Norfolk Island may apply for a Permanent Resident of Norfolk Island visa on arrival.

with you when you travel to Australia as it may assist your entry into the country and will be required for the likes of transport services prior to being issued with your official accreditation pass in Perth.

Media travelling to Australia for CHOGM

Media need accreditation to access CHOGM venues. Before you lodge an application for a visa to attend CHOGM 2011, you must complete an online media registration form through the EMS. For more information on registration requirements, please contact:

Media accreditation
CHOGM 2011 Taskforce
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
PO Box 6500 Barton ACT Australia 2600
Telephone: +61 02 6271 6201
Email: media@chogm2011.org

Once your online media registration has been accepted, you will receive an Accreditation Certificate. Do not apply for a visa until you have received this certificate. If you are lodging a Business (Short Stay) (subclass 456) application, you must submit a photocopy of the Accreditation Certificate with your application. You must carry the original Accreditation Certificate with you when you travel to Australia as it may assist your entry into the country and will be required for the use of transport and other services prior to being issued with your official accreditation pass in Perth.

Sporting events

If you are participating in the official hockey and netball tournaments in the week preceding CHOGM, you must be registered with Netball Australia or Hockey Australia as a participant in the tournaments. Do not apply for a visa until you have been selected to represent your country at the tournaments.

Visa options

eVisitor

If you hold an eVisitor eligible passport, you are able to apply online for a visa to travel to and enter Australia. An eVisitor (Business Entrant) (subclass 651) allows you to stay in Australia for up to three months on each visit within a 12 month period from the date the visa was granted. Applications for an eVisitor are free.

Table 1: Passports eligible for the eVisitor program

Andorra	Hungary	Poland
Austria	Iceland	Portugal
Belgium	Ireland	Romania
Bulgaria	Italy	Republic of San Marino
Cyprus	Latvia	Slovak Republic
Czech Republic	Liechtenstein	Slovenia
Denmark	Lithuania	Spain
Estonia	Luxembourg	Sweden
Finland	Malta	Switzerland
France	Monaco	United Kingdom - British Citizen
Germany	The Netherlands	Vatican City
Greece	Norway	

Applications can be made at through the departmental website.

See: www.immi.gov.au/e_visas/evisitor.htm

See also: www.immi.gov.au/visitors/tourist/evisitor

If family members are travelling with you, a separate online eVisitor (Tourist Entrant) (subclass 651) application is required for each family member who holds an eVisitor eligible passport, including children under the age of 18 who are included on your passport.

Electronic Travel Authority (ETA)

If you hold an ETA eligible passport, you can apply online for a visa to travel to and enter Australia. For CHOGM 2011, you can apply for an ETA (Business Entrant) (subclass 977). An ETA allows the holder to stay in Australia for up to three months on each visit within a 12 month period from the date the ETA is granted. There is no visa application charge, but a service fee of AUD20 is payable for online applications. Travel agencies may choose to impose a fee to arrange an ETA on your behalf.

Table 2: Passports eligible to apply for an ETA online through the ETA website.

See: www.eta.immi.gov.au

Brunei	Malaysia
Canada	Singapore
Hong Kong (SAR)	South Korea
Japan	United States of America

Table 3: Passports eligible for an ETA through a travel agent, airline, specialist service provider or an Australian visa office outside Australia.

See: www.immi.gov.au/e-visa/eta.htm

Andorra	Ireland	Republic of San Marino
Austria	Italy	Singapore
Belgium	Japan	South Korea
Brunei	Liechtenstein	Spain
Canada	Luxembourg	Sweden
Denmark	Malaysia	Switzerland
Finland	Malta	Taiwan
France	Monaco	United Kingdom—British Citizen
Germany	The Netherlands	United Kingdom—British National (overseas)
Greece	Norway	United States of America
Iceland	Portugal	Vatican City

Each family member who holds an ETA eligible passport and want to travel with you to Australia must complete a separate online application form for the ETA (Visitor) (subclass 976). This includes children under the age of 18 who are included on your passport.

Business (Short Stay) (subclass 456) visa

If you hold a passport that is not eligible for an eVisitor or an ETA, you must submit an application for a Business (Short Stay) (subclass 456) visa. This visa will allow you to stay in Australia for a maximum of three months on each entry within a 12 month period. However, the duration of the visa and whether it allows multiple entry to Australia will be decided on a case-by-case basis according to your circumstances.

Form 456 Application for a Business (Short Stay) visa.

See: www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/456.pdf

To obtain the application documentation checklist for Form 456 Application for a Business (Short Stay) visa.

See: www.immi.gov.au/skilled/business/pdf/456-checklist.pdf

Information on lodging your application at the Australian visa office nearest your current place of residence.

See:

www.immi.gov.au/contacts/overseas/index.htm

www.immi.gov.au/skilled/business/456/

This visa application can include family members wanting to travel with you to Australia (for example, spouse and unmarried dependent children under 18 years of age).

Please note: These family members do not need a separate application form.

A visa application charge (VAC) of AUD120 normally applies for a Business (Short Stay) (subclass 456) visa. This VAC will be waived for official government delegates and delegates attending the Commonwealth Youth Forum.

Visa options by country of passport

Table 4: If you hold a passport from a Commonwealth country, this table will help you to identify what type of visa to apply for travel to Australia

Country of passport	Visa options	Location where visa should be lodged	Country of passport	Visa options	Location where visa should be lodged
Anguilla	456	Ottawa, Canada	Mauritius	456	Port Louis, Mauritius
Antigua and Barbuda	456	Ottawa, Canada	Mozambique	456	Pretoria, South Africa
Bahamas	456	Ottawa, Canada	Montserrat	456	Ottawa, Canada
Bangladesh	456	Dhaka, Bangladesh	Namibia	456	Pretoria, South Africa
Barbados	456	Ottawa, Canada	Nauru	456	Republic of Nauru
Belize	456	Ottawa, Canada	Nigeria	456	Pretoria, South Africa
Bermuda	456	Ottawa, Canada	Pakistan	456	Islamabad, Pakistan
Botswana	456	Pretoria, South Africa	Papua New Guinea	456	Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
British Virgin Islands	456	Ottawa, Canada	Rwanda	456	Nairobi, Kenya
Brunei	ETA 977 eligible or 456	456 only—Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Saint Kitts and Nevis	456	Ottawa, Canada
Cameroon	456	Nairobi, Kenya	Saint Lucia	456	Ottawa, Canada
Canada	ETA 977 eligible or 456	456 only—Ottawa, Canada	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	456	Ottawa, Canada
Cayman Islands	456	Ottawa, Canada	Samoa	456	Apia, Samoa
Cook Islands	456	Auckland, NZ	Seychelles	456	Pretoria, South Africa
Cyprus	eVisitor (Business) 651 eligible or 456	456 only—Nicosia, Cyprus	Sierra Leone	456	Pretoria, South Africa
Dominica	456	Ottawa, Canada	Singapore	ETA 977 eligible or 456	456 only—Singapore
Gambia	456	Pretoria, South Africa	Solomon Islands	456	Honiara, Solomon Islands
Ghana	456	Nairobi, Kenya	South Africa	456	Pretoria, South Africa
Gibraltar	456	London, United Kingdom	Sri Lanka	456	Colombo, Sri Lanka
Grenada	456	Ottawa, Canada	Swaziland	456	Pretoria, South Africa
Guyana	456	Ottawa, Canada	Tanzania	456	Nairobi, Kenya
India	456	New Delhi, India	Tonga	456	Nuku'alofa, Tonga
Jamaica	456	Ottawa, Canada	Trinidad and Tobago	456	Ottawa, Canada
Kenya	456	Nairobi, Kenya	Turks and Caicos Islands	456	Ottawa, Canada
Kiribati	456	Tarawa, Republic of Kiribati	Tuvalu	456	Suva, Fiji
Lesotho	456	Pretoria, South Africa	Uganda	456	Nairobi, Kenya
Malawi	456	Pretoria, South Africa	United Kingdom	eVisitor (Business) 651 eligible or 456	456 only—London, United Kingdom
Malaysia	ETA 977 eligible or 456	456 only—Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Vanuatu	456	Port Vila, Vanuatu
Maldives	456	Colombo, Sri Lanka	Zambia	456	Pretoria, South Africa
Malta	ETA 977 and eVisitor (Business) 651 eligible or 456	456 only—Berlin, Germany			

If you hold a passport from a non-Commonwealth country, please refer to the list of passports eligible for an eVisitor or ETA on pages 3 and 4. If your passport is not included on one of these lists, you may be eligible for a Business (Short Stay) (subclass 456).

See: www.immi.gov.au/skilled/business/456/

Things to consider before lodging an application

Passport validity

To ensure efficient processing of your visa application, your passport will need to remain valid for your entire stay in Australia.

Health and character requirements

All visa applicants must be assessed against Australia's health and character requirements. These requirements are designed to protect the safety and security of the Australian community.

Health requirements

As part of the visa application process you may be required to undertake a medical examination, chest x-ray and/or other health checks.

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship will advise you of the applicable health checks (if any), based on your individual circumstances.

Information on which health checks may apply to you is available at the department's website.

See: www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/1163i.pdf

If you have a significant health condition and you are concerned that you may not meet the health requirement for an Australian visa, please lodge a paper-based application for a Business (Short Stay) (subclass 456) at least eight weeks before your intended date of departure to Australia.

It is recommended that you take out health insurance for yourself and your family members before you travel to Australia. You will not be covered by Australia's national health scheme, unless your country has a reciprocal health care agreement with Australia. For information on health insurance for overseas visitors, please refer to the Department of Health and Ageing website.

See: www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/health-privatehealth-consumers-ovc.htm

Character requirements

As part of the visa application process, you must show that you are of good character.

Information on the character test is available on the department's website.

See: www.immi.gov.au/media/fact-sheets/79character.htm

If you have any criminal convictions in any country, it is not recommended that you apply for an online visa. Instead, you must lodge a paper-based application for a Business (Short Stay) (subclass 456) at the Australian visa office nearest to your current place of residence, at least three months before the CHOGM event.

Contact information for Australian visa offices is available on the department's website

See: www.immi.gov.au/contacts/overseas/index.htm

Travel sanctions

Nationals of countries subject to travel sanctions may not be permitted to travel to and enter Australia. Information on countries subject to travel sanctions, please see the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website.

See: www.dfat.gov.au/un/unsc_sanctions/index.html

When to apply for a visa

If you are lodging a Business (Short Stay) (subclass 456) visa application to attend CHOGM 2011 and/or parallel events, you were previously advised to apply for a visa by 19 August 2011. If you have not already done so, all visa applications must be lodged by close of business

Friday, 30 September 2011. Visa applications received after this date cannot be guaranteed to be processed in time for attendance at CHOGM and related events. You must provide a copy of your Accreditation Certificate to attend CHOGM with your visa application.

If making an eVisitor (Business Entrant) (subclass 651) or ETA (Business Entrant) (subclass 977) application, you should apply at least three weeks before your intended date of departure.

Obligations of visa holders

On arrival at Australia's border you must identify yourself, present your travel documents including your Accreditation Certificate to participate in CHOGM and complete an incoming passenger card (IPC). The IPC requires visitors (non-Australian citizen) to answer questions about their health and if they have any criminal convictions. If you arrive in Australia without valid travel documents or a valid visa, you will be delayed until your identity and claims to enter Australia are checked, or you may be refused entry to Australia.

Information on immigration clearance processes at Australia's borders.

See: www.immi.gov.au/managing-australias-borders/border-security/air/airport.htm

You must comply with your visa validity and visa conditions while in Australia. This information is available either on your visa label or in the letter informing you that you have been granted a visa. For online applications, the information is available on the letter or email confirming the grant of your visa.

If you breach any of your visa conditions your visa may be cancelled.

If your visa expires while you are still in Australia, you become an unlawful non-citizen. Unlawful non-citizens may be detained and removed from Australia.