

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic: Updated travel restrictions and advice from the Australian Government

### SUMMARY

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Australian Government has imposed travel restrictions on travellers arriving from overseas. From 20 March, non-permanent residents will not be allowed entry to Australia. The exclusion applies to business visa holders such as those on the 482 visa which replaced the 457 visa. All people travelling or returning to Australia will be required to self-isolate for 14 days, including Australian citizens. The Government's travel advice is at its highest for Australians: Level 4 - Do Not Travel.

### Travel restrictions imposed by the Australian Government

Information about travel restrictions and visas can be obtained from the [Department of Home Affairs](#).

The Australian Government has extensive travel restrictions on travellers arriving from overseas:

- From 17 March, all people travelling or returning to Australia will be required to self-isolate for 14 days, including Australian citizens.
- From 20 March there is no entry to Australia for all non-citizens or non-permanent residents. Permanent residents can bring with them their immediate family.

The travel restrictions apply to all working visa holders such as those on the 482 visa which replaced the 457 visa.

Business visa holders who are currently in Australia are encouraged to apply to renew their visas well before the expiry date and will not be able to return if they leave the country.

The exemptions include:

- NZ citizens normally resident here or transiting are exempt from the travel ban; and
- The family of citizens and permanent residents.

Ai Group understands the difficulties that these travel bans present for business operations and Ai Group's Chief Executive, Innes Willox, is in discussions with the Minister for Immigration seeking to broaden exemptions to apply to all current business visa holders who have been resident in Australia.

These measures are temporary and are being regularly reviewed by the Government

### Travel restrictions imposed by other countries

Many other countries have imposed travel restrictions aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19 including the USA and the UK.

From 15 March anyone travelling to New Zealand from any country including Australia, is required to self-isolate for 14 days upon entry into the country. Pacific island nations are not included in the restrictions.

### Smart Traveller website and risk levels

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade publishes travel advisories and official advice levels for over 170 countries on its [Smart Traveller website](#).

The Department assigns official advice levels of 1, 2, 3 or 4. A higher advice level means higher risk. The levels are:

- Level 1 - Exercise normal safety precautions
- Level 2 - Exercise a high degree of caution
- Level 3 - Reconsider your need to travel
- Level 4 - Do not travel

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, it is particularly important for Ai Group Members to check the official advice level for relevant countries.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade travel advice is currently at the highest level for all destinations: Level 4 – Do Not Travel.

### Do you require further advice?

Ai Group has set up a [special section on our website](#) to provide access to Ai Group advice and assistance relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For further information or assistance, please contact the **Ai Group Workplace Advice Line** on 1300 55 66 77.



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