

# The Big Move

A checklist for moving to Australia or New Zealand





**Drivers Licence:** Ensure your drivers licence is valid, in date and with an up to date picture. If you're from Canada, USA, UK, Ireland or the Netherlands, you can drive in most states of Australia and all of New Zealand with your current licence. Your licence must be written in English. If you're from South Africa, you will be able to drive in NZ but must be over 25 to use your current licence in Australia. More info about Aussie state rules can be found here:

<https://www.australia.gov.au/information-and-services/transport-and-regional/driving-with-an-overseas-licence>

Don't forget, the Aussies and NZ'ers might have very different roads to the ones you're used to. Consider that we drive on the left and have these strange things called roundabouts! Do a little research in to safe driving practices at the following links:

**Aus:** <https://www.australia.com/en/facts-and-planning/useful-tips/road-safety-in-australia.html>

**NZ:** <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/safety/driving-safely/visiting-drivers/>

**Book a hotel or BnB:** If you're arriving in Australia or New Zealand with the view of organizing your living arrangement after, you'll need to book at least a weeks stay in a hotel or BnB, ideally in the centre of the area you want to live in. Air Bnb offer very reasonable prices for home style living.

# Before you move

**Passport:** It's recommended before you travel that your passport has at least 6 months left before expiry. For many visas, your passport must be valid for the entire duration of your trip, so if you're going on a 2 year trip, we'd recommend that you have at least 2 years before expiry. Passports can be renewed whilst away from your home country.

**Get your 'No claims discount certificate' from your car insurance provider:** Some (but definitely not all) Aus/NZ car insurance providers will offer a no claims discount and many will recognize your overseas providers certificates. When you cancel your insurance in your home country, speak with their admin team about sending you a proof of no claims discount certificate.

**Shipping your personal affects:** It's likely that you won't be bringing your furniture, but if you're moving permanently you'll probably not want to leave your favourite things in mum's attic. A quick search on google will turn up some shipping companies relevant to your home country, or you could try some of the following:

[www.ship-stuff.com](http://www.ship-stuff.com)

[www.sevensesworldwide.com](http://www.sevensesworldwide.com)

**Open a bank account:** Bank accounts can be opened online, prior to arriving in either country. To get you started, you can explore these providers-

**Australia:** <https://www.commbank.com.au/moving-to-australia.html>

**New Zealand:** <https://www.anz.co.nz/personal/migrants-travel-foreign-exchange/microsite/en/open-a-bank-account/>

Its important that you book an appointment with the branch in the local area for a date just after your arrival. You will be unable to access your account until the bank has seen some photographic ID from you. You will then be able to receive your card.

# Before you move

**Buy socket adapters:** You're going to need a LOT of them. Every electronic you have which requires charging or a power source is going to need its own adapter if you use them at the same time. As well as this, some electronics, particularly from North America, are not suitable to be plugged in to Australian or New Zealand socket due to power output differences. Australia and New Zealand have a power output of 230V & 50Hz. Most commonly, this can affect hairdryers and straighteners, and if you plug them in and turn them on they could fry internally. To avoid this, check your operating manual or buy a voltage converter to be on the safe side.

**Set up a Skype, WhatsApp or FB Messenger account:** These platforms all have great options for video calling your friends and family from overseas. Might be worth setting up Grandma before you leave too.

**Update your student loan provider on your new situation:** Unfortunately, escaping your home country doesn't mean escaping your student loan. You'll need to let them know what you're doing and why you're no longer paying tax in your home country and therefore not contributing to your loan payments. Failure to do this could leave you open to prosecution if you return home to work.

**Cancel your bank debits:** Direct debits and standing orders will need to be cancelled for any home related utilities such as electricity, rent or the gym. Hold on to your Spotify and Netflix accounts however, you can change these over to Australia or New Zealand via the App/Website.

**Redirect your mail to your parents or a friend:** Until you have a fixed address overseas, it might be a good idea having someone you trust receiving your mail. You can do this by updating your address with your relevant contacts (don't forget your bank) or by speaking to your countries national mail system to place a redirection order on your address (this is likely to incur some cost).



# Before you move

**Travel Insurance:** You'll need to find a specialist provider to cover you one way as most travel insurance companies require a return date to your home country within 3 months. You are going to apply for health care upon arrival but your possessions, flights, accommodation will be unprotected and you may be doing a lot of travelling. It's up to you to decide your attitude to risk and insure accordingly.

**Unlock your mobile phone:** If you're on a cell phone contract plan, you may be locked to one provider, which we probably don't have here. You'll need to get your phone unlocked by contacting your network provider or the company which you purchased your handset from.

**Credit Cards:** Unfortunately in both Australia or New Zealand, you'll find it difficult to impossible to apply for credit (credit cards, loans and mortgages) unless you are a permanent resident. Most likely, the visa you'll be entering on will be a work permit without PR. If you like the safety of a credit card, you'll need to use your one from home but let your provider know of your trip. Blocks can be placed on cards that are used overseas if you have not informed the provider, as a fraud prevention method. Unfortunately, there is no international credit score service between Australia/New Zealand and the rest of the world so you will be starting from scratch. If you have outstanding credit in your home country, it won't follow you to Aus/NZ but it will continue to exist at home and only get worse.

**Medical records:** Whilst not necessary, if you would prefer to, you are able to apply for access to your medical records from home and have them transferred to your new medical provider. You will need to speak to your current GP about this and find out their procedures on transferring records. You'll also need to speak to your new provider about how they would like to receive them. This is mostly important if you require on going treatment for complex or life long conditions.

# Before you move

**Check the entry requirements on prescriptions medicines:** First of all, you'll need to take in to consideration the maximum fluid allowance in your carry on luggage is 100ml. Airports wont deviate from this as this is a security precaution. You'll need to decant in to smaller containers if required or speak to your doctor about getting a smaller version of your prescription medication. There may be customs regulations applying to particular medications so you will need to speak to your airline, airport or do some online research about medications.

It may be some time before you're able to register and see a doctor in your new country, so think about bringing 3 months stock of necessary medications as your overseas prescriptions will not work here.

**Overseas tax compliance:** Generally, this applies only to citizens of the US, but we recommend you research your own countries attitudes to overseas tax compliance. As for US citizens, you are required to pay some levels of tax to the USA on your overseas income/bank accounts. This is known as 'Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act' (FATCA) and most banking institutions across the world are subject to its regulations. For more information about FATCA, Check out the IRS website:

<https://www.irs.gov/businesses/corporations/foreign-account-tax-compliance-act-fatca>

**Registering as a veterinarian in Australia and New Zealand:** Overseas registrations can take a few weeks. Some of our veterinarians will be receiving a registration paid for and provided via their new employer, but for everyone else, you'll need to organize your registration yourself or with your Seven consultant. Speak to your consultant for more info on how to do this.

**Obtain your microchipping licence:** Most overseas microchipping licences are not recognized in Australia and New Zealand. As above, your new employer may already be obtaining this for you. If you're required to organise this yourself, microchipping courses are available online via TAFE institutes or you can do this via the AVA or NZVA.



# Organising Accommodation

When it comes to organizing accommodation, you have two possible routes- before or after arrival? If you're keen on seeing the place or meeting your new housemate before making a decision, the latter is likely your choice. Here are some ways to look for accommodation in Australia and New Zealand:

**Using a lettings agent:** Whether you're looking to rent or buy, you're probably not going to want to live in a hotel for months. You can speak with lettings agents about your situation prior to your departure or start the process once you're in the country. You'll be required to prove your identity and probably need a proof of income from your new employer (speak to your Seven consultant about obtaining this). One of the most commonly used websites for real estate is:

**Australia-** [www.realestate.com.au](http://www.realestate.com.au)

**New Zealand-** [www.realestate.co.nz](http://www.realestate.co.nz)

**Sharing a house or renting a room:** If you're coming on a temporary visa, travelling around or enjoy some company, its very common in both Australia and New Zealand to rent a room within a house. This is a great way to make friends and live cheaply, especially if you're only staying in one place for a few months. It's also a great way to live in a centre of a city where lettings can be pricey. If you're in Australia, this can be done easily on Gumtree.com.au, or if in New Zealand, try Trademe.co.nz. Facebook also contains many room renting groups, so try searching something like 'room mates Wellington' or 'Sydney rooms to rent' etc. Most private room rentals will still require a bond, which will be paid back to you after you leave. Be aware that many bonds paid in this way are not protected and you are relying on the honesty of your new house mate to repay you upon exit. Its recommended that you do not pay any private deposits or bonds to anybody before entering the country. Without seeing the property in person, you really don't have a clue if the property even exists.



# Bringing your Pets

## Organise bringing your dog or cat overseas

**Australia:** It's recommended in Australia that you allow 3-6 months prior to your trip to organize bringing your pets in to the country, depending on which country you're entering from. It is possible to use various companies to do all the work and organization for you, which will of course incur a cost and a quick google search will find many different companies for you to review. If you'd like to do the process yourself, you'll need to follow this rough time line:

For example, if you're a US vet bringing your dog to Australia, and you'll be arriving on 1st January 2020, you'll need to be ready to start your pets export process on 1st June 2019. You'll be required to attend various veterinary appointments with a government approved veterinarian, as well as visit your governments office and apply and pay for your import permit. Your last step in the process would be to visit your government office by 27th December 2019 to receive a health certificate which will travel with your pet on their crate. You will need to have organised a flight for your pet, preferably with you. On arrival in Australia, your pooch would be collected by department staff from Australia's Mickleham facility and transported to Donnybrook, Victoria, where they will be required to stay for a minimum of 10 days.

**If you'd like to explore this further, check out the following government website:**

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/cats-dogs>



# Bringing your Pets

**New Zealand:** To bring your pet to New Zealand, you'll need to land in either Auckland or Christchurch first. From there they will be transferred to a quarantine facility. **A professional pet exporter can help you bring your pet here safely, most airlines require you to use one to make sure you've followed all the rules.** They offer a range of services like arranging tests, treatments, flights, permits to import, shipping crates, and other requirements. More information about this process is available online at:

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/importing/live-animals/pets/steps-to-importing-cats-and-dogs/>

Having researched the process, it is quite complicated and would probably be best left to an expert. Unfortunately, there aren't many companies offering this service, but some we have found are listed below:

[www.petrelocation.com](http://www.petrelocation.com)

[www.pettraveller.com.au](http://www.pettraveller.com.au)

[www.jetpets.com.au](http://www.jetpets.com.au)



# For The Flight

**Book your flights:** It's probably going to be a long flight. For example, Australia is roughly 19-25 hours from the UK and New Zealand around 30 hours. From most parts of the western world, you'll be looking at two flights to get to Aus and 3 to get to NZ. This can be quite daunting information if you're not a frequent or confident flyer. Some tips to consider:

- Book with a quality airline for the most comfort and best food. Some of the best rated economy airlines which fly to Aus and NZ are Emirates, Cathay Pacific, Etihad, Singapore Airlines and Qatar Airways. Pick a good airline which commonly flies to your local, home airport. This way you can start collecting points every time you fly home. If you're likely to do a lot of domestic flying, then consider flying with Qantas or Air New Zealand for those points too.
- Think about whether you'd prefer to get there quickly (short 1-3 hour gap between flights) or stay a day at your lay over destination and stretch your legs. For example, If you fancy a night or two in Dubai, fly with Emirates and book the two legs of your flight with 24-48 hours between them. Don't forget to book a hotel.
- How much luggage do you have? Common luggage allowances on long haul flights are around 25-35 kilos, however you can book extra baggage (for an extra cost). Some airlines allow only one suitcase per person, where as other will allow you to bring as many bags as you like within your luggage allowance. You can usually find this information on the providers website and this information will change depending on which country you're leaving from. Call your airline to clarify anything luggage related well before you leave, because prices go up at the check in desk!
- To get the best prices on flights, use the Skyscanner App or check out their website. Your Seven consultant will happily help you navigate the site or compare prices.
- Australia and New Zealand have very strict biosecurity laws to protect the wonderful flora and fauna. Most natural items such as raw food or untreated wood will not be allowed in to the country due to potential pests they may be harbouring. Check immigration biosecurity regulations before flying to avoid your items being confiscated. Failure to declare any of these items may result in a heavy penalty as well as confiscation.

# Arrivals



## Once you're here

**Getting from the airport to your next destination:** Whether you're off to a hotel or your new home, you will need to arrange your next bit of travel prior to arriving. Plan your route with google maps. If you're going to live in a big city, then it's likely that public transport will be accessible or a taxi will be affordable. Have a think about how much luggage you'll be struggling on to a crowded bus before settling for public transport. Uber is available in most major cities in Australia and New Zealand and offers a cheaper car journey than taxi's, which will be far more comfortable than sitting on a tram with 30 kilos of luggage after a 30 hours flight. If you're staying somewhere more rural then you might require to hire a car to get there. If it's been a long, sleepless flight (or you've had a few glasses of wine), book an airport hotel so you can depart fresh the next morning. Well rested and sober drivers are the best drivers after all.

**Grab a SIM card:** You can do this from the provider themselves or drop in to a newsagent. Most sim cards will cost about \$2. With Australia being a very vast country you'll need to think about your cell coverage. If you're living in a city, most providers will have good coverage (Optus and Vodafone tend to be cheaper) but if you're going anywhere outside of a city, Telstra is really your only option. The further you get from a major city or town, the poorer the cell coverage will be. New Zealand may have similar problems with coverage outside of cities with the three main providers being Spark, 2degrees and Vodafone. Stick to one of these and you should be well catered for.



# Your first week

**Attend your bank appointment:** Make sure you have all your documents ready for the bank and if you don't have an appointment, best to call the branch first and check if you need one. Be prepared to be turned away if you attend without an appointment. If you pay for things via Paypal, unfortunately you won't be able to add an overseas card to your existing account. Once you have your new bank card, you'll need to sign up with [paypal.com.au](https://www.paypal.com.au) or [paypal.co.nz](https://www.paypal.co.nz) with a completely new email address.

**Become a tax payer:** Not the most exciting job in the world, but it has to be done sooner rather than later. In Australia this is known as a TFN (Tax file number) and in New Zealand an IRD (Inland Revenue Department) Number. Check out the websites below to register:

**TFN:** <https://www.ato.gov.au/individuals/tax-file-number/>

**IRD:** <https://www.ird.govt.nz/forms-guides/number/forms-500-599/ir595-form-individualirdapp.html>

**Organise your pension:** If you're in Australia, this is known as Superannuation. You'll need to open a super account as your employer will require these details on your first day. Speak with your bank during your account opening appointment or shop around online. Your super account won't cost you anything, but it is an investment, so choosing a provider may affect how much interest it gains. In New Zealand, this is a different process.

**Check out the Kiwi Saver website to get started**

<https://www.kiwisaver.govt.nz/>



# Your First Week

**Convert your driving licence:** You're permitted to drive in each Australian state for up to 3 months on your overseas licence and up to 12 month in New Zealand. You may find your licence will not be considered valid identification in bars and clubs, so to save yourself from having to carry your passport on a night out, you can apply for your Aussie or Kiwi license as soon as you have a permanent address (not a hotel). If you're in Australia, you'll need to drop in to your local department of roads and transport for your state. If you're in New Zealand, you'll need to visit the following website, prepare your documents and head to a specialist conversion centre:

<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/driver-licences/new-residents-and-visitors/convertng-to-nz-driver-licence/overseas-conversion-driver-licensing-agents/>

**Signing up for medical care:** Both Australia and New Zealand offer a level of public healthcare which will likely be different to that of your home country. As a new, permanent migrant, you'll be pleased to know you are eligible in either countries.

**Australia:** Public health in Australia is provided under the name 'Medicare'. To sign up for Medicare, you'll need to go to the website and print an application form. The form will outline which document you require and will include:

- A copy of your visa grant letter
- Your passport
- Proof of your Australian address
- A completed form which can be downloaded at

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/forms/ms004>

# Your First Week

## Signing up for medical care continued...

You'll need to take your form, identification for yourself and anybody else on your application, such as your partner and children, to a local centrelink or medicare office for processing. Once you're enrolled for medicare, you'll be sent a card in the post to use at hospitals or clinics. In Australia, both private health and public health clinics are available, so if you're looking for free or cheap medical care, you'll need to look out for 'bulk billing' clinic. Speak with the reception at the clinic to find out if your visit will be covered by Medicare, as you may need to make a monetary contribution in some clinics. You will also need to be aware that some treatments or tests that are issued by your doctor may also incur a further, expensive charge, so make sure you discuss with your doctor any additional charges during your treatment.

**New Zealand:** Things work a little differently here in NZ and are definitely simpler. What you'll need to do is contact a clinic local to you and ask if they are accepting patients. When you enrol, take along any forms of identification and medical records you are asked for. It can take up to 3 months for all of this to be processed, so the NZ healthcare system recommend you start the process ASAP so you don't get sick and stuck without a provider. Your doctors visits will still incur a fee however, with the average visit costing \$45-55.



# Safety

**Your safety in your new country:** Here are some aspects of your new life that you'll need to be aware of. Some points here may seem a little scary, but Australia and New Zealand's citizens, businesses and government departments are all prepared for the weather and wildlife and happily live with it daily.

- The emergency services number for Australia is 000 and New Zealand is 111
- There's an enormous hole in the Ozone layer above Oceania, so don't skimp on the sun screen!
- Australia, in particular, has a lot of mosquitoes, particularly in the warm weather. Mosquito repellent is vital for your own comfort and sanity to avoid itchy bites, but also, mosquitoes carry various diseases such as Dengue fever, Ross River virus and Barmah Forest virus.
- It's recommended by everyone that you always swim between the flags. If there's no flags or life guards, don't swim. The oceans in Australia and New Zealand are prone to rip currents which can claim lives of unprepared swimmers.
- Bushfires and cyclones aren't uncommon. Your local news and weather will keep you well informed of this information, so listen to their advice and act accordingly. In the event of an emergency, you will receive emergency text messages to your phone when within the area.
- Speak with your employer about any vaccinations you may require as you may not have been exposed to much of our wildlife, some of which carry disease specific to the region.
- Due to New Zealand's location, it is prone to earthquakes. Earthquakes strike without warning so it is important to be prepared and know what to do in this event.

# Anything else?

Okay, so you've read all the important bits and planned and organized your life. Here's some weird and wonderful aspects of Aussie and Kiwi life to get you excited!

- Kiwis might actually be the friendliest people in the world. Be prepared to talk to strangers in bars, shops and even the street.
- We're going to ruin a practical joke and tell you there is no such thing as drop bears! Try google searching 'drop bear' and check out the great Australian tourist joke.
- Dangerous animals in Australia, lots. Dangerous animals you'll see in cities, very few!
- Nobody drinks Fosters so probably best not mentioning it. Australian culture dictates you try a VB though...
- Jandals and thongs. Sounds a bit alien but they are just flip flops
- If someone in New Zealand tells you they are going to the dairy, you'll find them in your local convenience store
- Our coffee is fantastic and we have thousands of coffee shops. Unlike the UK, instant coffee is deemed entirely unacceptable here!
- Jade necklaces and tribal tattoos are very important in Maori culture and are significant to status and tradition. It's probably not appropriate for you to get one unless it is gifted to you by a person from this culture.
- One thing nobody seems to mention before you arrive in an Australian rural area... the FLIES. The cities are relatively fly free, however, rural areas have some seriously brave flies which will spend most of their day trying to live on your face.
- In New Zealand, there are more sheep than people. In Australia, there are more sheep than in New Zealand!
- In Australia, tomato ketchup goes on top of your pie, which is commonly eaten at footy games or purchased from petrol stations (servos)
- New Zealand has terrible internet connection. This is due to New Zealand being the last stop on the 'magic under-the-ocean internet cable thingy'
- Nobody in Australia has died from a venomous spider in over 40 years
- In New Zealand you can quite literally walk to Mordor! Check out the Tongariro alpine crossing if you're interested in a 6 hour hiking adventure across a volcano.
- In both Australia and New Zealand, we love breakfast and brunch! Many places will open only for these meal times and have mostly a breakfast menu. Going out for breakfast in Australia might be more popular than lunch.
- 20 of the world's top 25 most deadly snakes are found in Australia. Snakes are rare in cities, however one was recently found inside a toaster on the Gold Coast.
- Don't google a weta....



# Print me!

Here's a printer friendly checklist and some important information

## Before you move:

- ☐ Check passport/renew passport
- ☐ Check driving licence/obtain translation
- ☐ Research highway code
- ☐ Open a bank account
- ☐ Buy socket adapters & voltage converter
- ☐ Set up skype for you and your family
- ☐ Contact student loans
- ☐ Cancel direct debits and standing orders
- ☐ Redirect your mail
- ☐ Freight your stuff
- ☐ Book hotels or BnBs
- ☐ Buy travel insurance
- ☐ Unlock cell phone
- ☐ Speak to your credit card company
- ☐ Obtain your no claims discount certificate
- ☐ Organise your medical records
- ☐ Obtain prescription medicine
- ☐ US Citizens: Research FATCA
- ☐ Register as a Vet in Aus/NZ
- ☐ Apply for a microchipping licence
- ☐ Start organizing your pets immigration
- ☐

## For the flight:

- ☐ Book your flights
- ☐ Find out your exact luggage/piece allowance
- ☐ Sign up for airline reward points
- ☐ Book a layover hotel

## Once your here:

- ☐ Organise your transfer to accommodation
- ☐ Pick up a SIM card

## Your first week:

- ☐ Attend your bank account appointment
- ☐ Register to pay tax
- ☐ Open your pension account
- ☐ Swap over your driving licence
- ☐ Register for healthcare

## Emergency/Important contacts

### Australia:

Fire/Police/Ambulance - 000

Poison Information Centre - 131 126

Directory assistance - 12455

Public transport info - 131230

## Emergency/Important contacts

### New Zealand:

Fire/Police/Ambulance - 111

Healthline - 0800 611 116

Directory assistance - 018

Earthquake support - 0800 777 846