



Ambasáid na hÉireann

Embassy of Ireland, Canberra  
20 Arkana Street, Yarralumla ACT 2600

### **Travelling to Australia on a Working Holiday Visa (Subclass 417)**

The Working Holiday Visa is a temporary visa which provides those eligible with the right to work and holiday in Australia. It aims to encourage closer ties between Australia and eligible countries.

The Working Holiday Visa allows you to;

- stay in Australia for up to 12 months
- work in Australia, generally for up to six months with each employer
- study for up to four months
- leave and re-enter Australia any number of times while the visa is valid.

**The Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection ([www.border.gov.au](http://www.border.gov.au))** process all WHV applications and queries about the application process should be directed to them. While the Consulate cannot offer specific assistance or advice on the visa process, it is important to know about your entitlements and your rights while you are in Australia and the information below, while not exhaustive, is designed to assist in this regard.

#### **Before you apply:**

- Check that your passport is valid
- Do your research - it is important to undertake research before moving to Australia. Every visa has specific requirements and it is important to be aware of your rights and entitlements prior to arrival
- Check the cost of your visa and research additional costs particularly accommodation and cost of living. Good accommodation in the major cities can be difficult to find and is expensive. Applicants for a working holiday visa are required to have enough money to support themselves and are also required to have enough money to buy a return ticket at the end of their stay
- Please note that Irish citizens are not entitled to Medicare (the Australian free health care system) while on a WHV. Ireland and Australia have a Reciprocal Health Care Agreement which covers emergency treatment only. It is highly recommended that all WHV holders take out private health insurance.

#### **General Information in relation to WHV**

Your first Working Holiday Visa must be applied for offshore and you must not enter Australia prior to a decision being made.

Your second Working Holiday Visa can be applied for on or offshore. If you apply offshore you must be outside of Australia when the visa is granted. If your application is made whilst in Australia you must be in the country when the visa is granted. In order to fulfil the criteria to obtain a second



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working holiday visa the applicant must have undertaken 88 days of regional work as part of their first year working holiday visa.

Consideration is being given at government level to expanding the upper age of eligibility from 30 to 35 years. This has not been approved as yet, therefore the current age of eligibility remains 18 to 30 years

### **Work entitlements:**

WHV holders should be aware that the visa is geared towards both work and holiday in Australia. As a result there is a six month restriction on employment with certain employers. More information in relation to this requirement can be found on the DIBP website.

Please note that an employer cannot cancel your visa, even if you are in breach of the visa conditions. Only the DIBP can cancel visas.

If you are intending on applying for a second working holiday visa you will be required to undertake 88 days of specified regional work whilst on your first working holiday visa.

### **Know before you go - Specified Regional Work:**

- Check that you are eligible to apply for a second year working holiday visa
- Check that the region you are planning to complete this work is classed as a 'regional area'
- Check that your employer is registered to employ working holiday makers. This means that they will withhold 15% of tax. (You should advise the employer of your visa status also)
- Check that you will be paid at an appropriate level, that will receive a weekly payslip and that you will receive a payment summary at the end of your work period
- Be aware that an employer/accommodation owner **cannot** confiscate your Irish passport for the period of your work. Where your passport has been removed from your possession and is not returned to you upon request, please notify the Consulate at once
- You should remember, regardless of your visa status, that you are entitled to report any mistreatment to the local police and/or the Fair Work Ombudsman.

### **Tax and Superannuation:**

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 the Australian Tax Office introduced a new tax system for Working Holiday Makers (Visa Subclass 417 or 462);

- A new tax rate of 15% applies to Working Holiday Makers.
- A Departing Australia Superannuation Payment (DASP) made to WHM from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 is taxed at 65%
- Employers must register with the Australian Tax Office if they intend on employing WHM at any stage. Employers must also provide payslips to Working Holiday Makers. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that they receive the relevant documentation when



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working on a 417 visa. Failure to produce documentation may affect an application for a second year working holiday visa.

For more information on your tax entitlements please refer to the ATO website or contact the ATO directly at 132865

<https://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/International-tax-for-individuals/Coming-to-Australia/Working-holiday-makers/>

**Useful employment related resources:**

**Fair Work Ombudsman**

It is important to remember that migrant workers and visa holders have the same workplace rights as all other workers in Australia. The Fair Work Ombudsman provides free advice and assistance to all workers to help them understand these rights and they can be contacted anonymously. A factsheet prepared by the Fair Work Ombudsman covering the workplace rights and entitlements of visa holders can be accessed at <http://www.fairwork.gov.au/find-help-for/visa-holders-and-migrants>

**Migrant Workers Taskforce**

The Migrant Workers Taskforce was established in Australia to address areas of the Working Holiday Maker programme which require improvement. This taskforce has identified key areas relating to communication of information and resources, prevention of exploitation, effective enforcement and compliance to visa restrictions.

The Migrant Workers Taskforce operates a confidential reporting system which is accessible to anybody who feels that they have a problem with work and wish to report it anonymously. The link for this report form is available on their website <https://www.employment.gov.au/migrant-workers-taskforce>

The purpose of the Working Holiday visa is to have an opportunity to embrace Australian lifestyle and culture through travel, whilst also being able to work to support yourself. If you do encounter difficulties adapting to life in Australia, the Consulate and a number of Irish Community organisations are available to offer assistance and support. Please check the “New to Sydney” page on the Consulate’s website for more information: <https://www.dfa.ie/irish-consulate/sydney/our-services/new-to-sydney/>