

THE SOUTHERN CROSS GROUP

AUSTRALIA'S KEY AGREEMENTS FOR AUSTRALIANS LIVING OVERSEAS

Australians who are currently living overseas or who are planning a medium to long-term trip overseas should be aware that Australia has a number of international agreements with various countries which can have a significant impact on their personal and financial circumstances. Of particular financial relevance are **Australia's Working Holiday, Social Security** (some of which have provisions relating to taxation of superannuation contributions), **Medicare** and **Taxation Agreements**.

It is also important to have an understanding of those countries which are currently members of the European Union and those which will become members in May 2004. Travelers to Europe should be aware that most of the current members of the European Union (Ireland and the UK are the exceptions) are signatories to the travel provisions of the Schengen Agreement which can limit the time spent as travelers in the Schengen zone as a whole.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Working Holidays¹</u>	<u>Social Security Agreements²</u>	<u>Superannuation in SS Agrmt</u>	<u>Medicare Agreements³</u>	<u>Taxation Agreements⁴</u>	<u>European Union⁵</u>	<u>Schengen Travel⁶</u>
Argentina					Yes		
Austria	Negotiations	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes
Belgium	In 2004-5	From 1.7.2005 ?			Yes	Yes	Yes
Bulgaria						Applicant	
Canada	Yes (Quota of 6000)	Yes			Yes		
Chile		From 1.7.2004			Yes		
China, Peoples Republic of							
Croatia		From 1.7.2004					
Cyprus	Yes	Yes				May 2004	
Czech Republic					Yes	May 2004	
Denmark	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes
Estonia	Negotiations					May 2003	
Fiji					Yes		
Finland	Yes	Negotiations		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
France	Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes
Germany	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes
Greece	Negotiations	Preliminary discussions				Yes	Yes
Hong Kong	Yes						
Hungary							
Iceland	Negotiations				Yes	May 2004	
India					Yes		Yes
Ireland	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	

Australia's International Agreements

<u>Country</u>	<u>Working Holidays¹</u>	<u>Social Security Agreements²</u>	<u>Superannuation in SS Agrmt</u>	<u>Medicare Agreements³</u>	<u>Taxation Agreements⁴</u>	<u>European Union⁵</u>	<u>Schengen Travel⁶</u>
Italy	Negotiations	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Japan	Yes	Discussions			Yes		
Kiribati					Yes		
Latvia						May 2004	
Lithuania						May 2004	
Luxembourg						Yes	Yes
Malaysia	Negotiations				Yes		
Malta	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	May 2004	
Mexico					Yes		
The Netherlands (Holland)	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Zealand		Yes		Yes	Yes		
Norway	Yes	Negotiations (By end 2004?)		Yes	Yes		Yes
Papua New Guinea					Yes		
Philippines					Yes		
Poland					Yes	May 2004	
Portugal		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
Romania					Yes	Applicant	
Russia					Yes		
Republic of Korea (South Korea)	Yes				Yes		
Singapore	Negotiations				Yes		
Slovenia		Yes				May 2004	
Slovakia					Yes	May 2004	
South Africa					Yes		
Spain	Negotiations	Yes				Yes	Yes
Sri Lanka					Yes		
Sweden	Yes			Yes		Yes	Yes
Switzerland	Negotiations	Negotiations (By end of 2004?)			Yes		
Taiwan					Yes		
Thailand	Negotiations				Yes		
Turkey		Preliminary discussions				Applicant	

Country	Working Holidays ¹	Social Security Agreements ²	Superannuation in SS Agrmt	Medicare Agreements ³	Taxation Agreements ⁴	European Union ⁵	Schengen Travel ⁶
United Kingdom	Yes (2 years)			Yes	Yes	Yes	
United States	Special arrangements ¹ + Negotiations	Yes	Yes		Yes		
Vietnam					Yes		

¹ For further details of the Working Holiday Agreements see www.southern-cross-group.org and follow the link to the working holiday pages.

² For further details of the Social security agreements see www.southern-cross-group.org and follow the link to Social Security Agreements

For an explanation of the effect of the International Superannuation Agreements included in some of the Social Security Agreements see the website of the Australian Taxation Office at <http://www.ato.gov.au/individuals/content.asp?doc=/content/20524.htm&pc=001/002/012/010&mnu=&mfip=&st=&cy=1>

³ For further details of Australia's Reciprocal Health Care Agreements visit the Health Insurance Commission website at http://www.hic.gov.au/yourhealth/services_for_travellers/to.htm.

NOTE: Conditions vary from one country to another. It is important that you look at the relevant pages for the countries you will be visiting.

⁴ For further details of the Taxation Agreements see www.southern-cross-group.org and follow the link to the taxation pages.

⁵ Citizens of European Union (EU) countries enjoy freedom of movement and employment within the countries of the Union. Thus, Australian citizens who are able to claim citizenship of one of those countries should consider doing so to gain those advantages. In most countries, non-citizens of the EU require work and residency permits to take employment.

⁶ The Schengen Agreement, to which a number of European countries are signatories, allows free movement of people across their borders without normal immigration (passport) controls.

Citizens of non-member countries are subject to immigration checks at the place of first entry into the Schengen area. There is a need for Australians to check whether any of these countries require a visa. Tourists are limited to 3 months at a time in the area with a 6 months non-return period as from the date of first entry. The United Kingdom and Ireland are not signatories to the agreement in respect of immigration.

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