



(Subclass 837)

Orphan Relative visa

This visa lets a child who is single and already in Australia stay with a relative if their parents are deceased, can't care for them or can't be found.

Personalise this page...

For Applicants

For Sponsors

Overview

Stay

Permanently

Cost

From AUD1,870.00

Processing times

For an indication of processing times for this visa, use the [visa processing time guide tool \(/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/global-visa-processing-times\)](/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/global-visa-processing-times). This will show the processing times for recently decided applications. It is a guide only and not specific to your application.

With this visa the child can

- migrate to Australia as a permanent resident
- study and access Medicare (<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/medicare>)
- apply for Australian citizenship (</citizenship/become-a-citizen>) if eligible

[See all conditions \(/visas/already-have-a-visa/check-visa-details-and-conditions/see-your-visa-conditions?product=837\)](/visas/already-have-a-visa/check-visa-details-and-conditions/see-your-visa-conditions?product=837)

[Check your eligibility \(#Eligibility\)](#)

The child must

- be under 18 years of age, single and with no parent to care for them
- have a relative who is a settled Australian citizen, eligible New Zealand citizen or Australian permanent resident

[Ask a question](#)

- be in Australia but not in immigration clearance when the application is made and when we make a decision

Help with your visa

If you are getting help with your visa, before you pay someone, read information on [Who can help with your visa application \(/help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/overview\)](/help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/overview).

About this visa

- [With this visa the child can \(#aboutVisa-index-0\)](#)
- [How long the child can stay \(#aboutVisa-index-1\)](#)
- [Include other children \(#aboutVisa-index-2\)](#)
- [Cost \(#aboutVisa-index-3\)](#)
- [Apply from \(#aboutVisa-index-4\)](#)
- [Processing times \(#aboutVisa-index-5\)](#)
- [The child's obligations \(#aboutVisa-index-6\)](#)
- [Visa label \(#aboutVisa-index-7\)](#)

With this visa the child can

- stay in Australia indefinitely
- work and study in Australia in line with Australian law
- enrol in Australia's public healthcare scheme, Medicare (<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/medicare>)
- sponsor relatives to come to Australia
- apply for [Australian citizenship \(/citizenship/become-a-citizen\)](/citizenship/become-a-citizen), if eligible.

Travel to and from Australia for 5 years

The child can travel to and from Australia as many times as they want for 5 years from the date we grant this visa. This is as long as the travel facility of this visa remains valid.

If the child wants to travel after the initial 5-year travel facility, they:

- will need to apply for and be granted a [Resident Return \(RRV\) \(/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/resident-return-visa-155-157\)](/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/resident-return-visa-155-157) visa to re-enter Australia as a permanent resident
- can also consider Australian citizenship. If they become an Australian citizen, they won't require a visa to enter Australia. They will need to apply for an Australian passport and use it to leave and re-enter Australia. See more about eligibility requirements and current processing times for [Australian citizenship \(/citizenship/become-a-citizen\)](/citizenship/become-a-citizen).

To see when the child's travel facility ends, use [VEVO \(https://online.immi.gov.au/evo/firstParty?actionType=query\)](https://online.immi.gov.au/evo/firstParty?actionType=query).

How long the child can stay

This is a permanent visa. It lets the child stay in Australia indefinitely.

For citizenship purposes, the child becomes a permanent resident on the day we grant the visa.

Include other children

If the child has siblings who also want to apply, make a separate application for each sibling.

The child's dependent children can be included on their application when they apply or at any time before we decide the application.

Dependent children of the child who apply for the visa must meet our [health requirement \(/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/health\)](/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/health).

Family members who are not coming to Australia might also have to meet our health requirement.

Cost

The visa costs AUD1,870.00 for the main applicant.

There is also a charge for each of the child's dependent children who apply for the visa.

There might also be other costs for [health checks \(/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/health\)](/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/health), [police certificates](#) and [biometrics](#).

Use the [Visa Pricing Estimator \(/visas/visa-pricing-estimator?visa=837\)](/visas/visa-pricing-estimator?visa=837) to work out what your visa will cost. The estimator does not take into account the other costs.

Apply from

The child must be in Australia when the application is made and when we make a decision.

The child can't validly apply for this visa if they are in Australia on another visa with a no further stay condition.

Processing times

For an indication of processing times for this visa, use the [visa processing time guide tool \(/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/global-visa-processing-times\)](/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/global-visa-processing-times). This will show the processing times for recently decided applications. It is a guide only and not specific to your application.

The application might take longer to process if:

- it is not filled in correctly
- it does not include all the documents we need or we need more information from you
- it takes us time to verify your information.

We can't process the application if you do not pay the correct visa application charge. We will tell the applicant if this is the case. We will return the application if necessary.

The child's obligations

The child and any of their dependent children who are granted the visa must obey all Australian laws.

Visa label

We will digitally link the child's visa to their passport. They will not get a label in their passport.

If we grant the visa, we will send a grant notification letter containing the visa grant number. Use this number to access the digital visa record.

Eligibility

Have a sponsor

The child must be sponsored by an eligible sibling or step-sibling, grandparent or step-grandparent, aunt, uncle, step-aunt or step-uncle.

We must approve the sponsorship. We might not approve sponsorship if the parent or their partner has been charged or convicted of offences involving children. Learn more about [measures for the protection of children \(/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/orphan-relative-117/measures-for-the-protection-of-children\)](https://www.ag.gov.au/FamiliesAndMarriage/Families/InternationalFamilyLaw/Pages/Registrationofoverseaschildorders.aspx).

Be this age

The child must be under 18 years old when they apply for the visa.

Have no parent who can care for them

We will not grant this visa unless the child has no parent who can care for them. This might be because both of their parents either:

- are deceased
- are permanently incapable of caring for the child
- can't be found.

We will not grant this visa if the child's parents are capable of caring for them but don't want to.

Have consent to migrate to Australia

We will only grant this visa to a child younger than 18 years if either:

- the child has the written consent of everyone who can legally decide where they live
- the laws of the child's home country allow them to leave their home country
- it is consistent with any [Australian child order](https://www.ag.gov.au/FamiliesAndMarriage/Families/InternationalFamilyLaw/Pages/Registrationofoverseaschildorders.aspx)

(<https://www.ag.gov.au/FamiliesAndMarriage/Families/InternationalFamilyLaw/Pages/Registrationofoverseaschildorders.aspx>) about the

child

Hold a visa

The child might not be able to get this visa if:

- they do not currently hold a [substantive visa](#)
 - they have not applied to get an Orphan Relative visa within 12 months of the previous substantive visa ceasing
 - the substantive visa they hold or last held was a subclass 771 Transit visa.
-

Meet the health requirement

The child and any of their dependent children who apply for the visa with them must meet our [health requirement](#) ([/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/health](#)).

Dependent children who are not applying for the visa might also have to meet our health requirement.

Meet the character requirement

If the child is aged 16 years or older they must meet our [character requirement](#) ([/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/character](#)).

We might also ask that other dependent children who apply for the visa meet the requirement.

Have paid back debt to the Australian Government

If the child owes the Australian Government money it must be paid it back or there must be a formal arrangement to pay it back.

Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused

We will consider the child's immigration history when we make a decision on the application, which means the child might not be eligible for this visa if they have had a visa cancelled or refused.

In some circumstances, the child may still apply for a permanent visa if they have had a visa cancelled or an application refused, see [Limitations on applications in Australia \(129KB PDF\)](#) ([/form-listing/forms/1026i.pdf](#)).

If applying for a visa from outside Australia, see [Can I go to Australia](#) ([/entering-and-leaving-australia/entering-australia/can-i-go-to-australia/re-entry-ban](#)).

If immigration assistance is needed, see [Who can help with your visa application](#) ([/help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/overview](#)).

Best interests of the child

We might not grant this visa if it is not in the best interests of an applicant under 18.

Meet all these criteria? Check how to apply in our [step by step \(#HowTo\)](#) guide.

Step by step

Step 1

Before you apply

Check the child's passport is valid. Tell us if someone is acting on the child's behalf.

Get help with your application

Only some people can help you with your application. If you appoint someone to give you immigration assistance they must be:

- a [registered migration agent \(/help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/using-a-migration-agent\)](/help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/using-a-migration-agent)
- a [legal practitioner \(/help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/using-a-legal-practitioner\)](/help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/using-a-legal-practitioner), Or
- an [exempt person \(/help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/exempt-person\)](/help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/exempt-person).

You can appoint anyone to [receive documents \(/help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/authorised-recipients\)](/help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/authorised-recipients) on your behalf relating to your visa matter.

Step 2

Gather your documents

Provide documents to support the application.

Provide accurate documents

Provide accurate information. See what happens if you can't [prove the child's identity or don't provide true information \(/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/providing-accurate-information\)](/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/providing-accurate-information).

Identity documents

Provide the pages of the child's current passport showing their photo, personal details, and passport issue and expiry dates.

Also provide:

- a national identity card, if they have one
- proof of change of name, if applicable.

Documents that prove a change of name include:

- change of name documents from an Australian registry of births, deaths and marriages, or the relevant overseas authority
- documents that show other names the child has been known by.

Travel documents

Provide a certified copy of the passport or travel document the child used to enter Australia. We also need copies of any passports the child has held since then.

Photographs

Provide 4 recent passport-size photos (45mm x 35mm) of the child and for any other dependant included in the application.

Photographs must be:

- passport-size (45mm x 35mm)
- less than 6 months old
- good quality colour. We don't accept laser copies
- a full-face view of your head and shoulders
- taken against a plain light-coloured background

The child can wear untinted prescription glasses. If the child wears a head covering for religious reasons, they can show only their face.

Evidence the child has no parents who can care for them

You must provide evidence the child has no parents capable of caring for them.

Provide:

- a death certificate or other official document
- evidence such as a medical report, showing why the child's parents are unable to care for them

If the child's parents can't be found, provide evidence of:

- how long they have been missing
 - what efforts have been made to contact or find them
-

Child's relationship to their relative

Provide evidence of the child's relationship to the sponsor such as:

- a birth certificate
 - a marriage certificate
 - an adoption certificate
 - a family status certificate or family book, if officially issued and maintained
-

Character documents

Children over 16 years must provide police certificates from every country they have spent 12 months or more in the last 10 years, since turning 16.

For Australia, we only accept National Police Certificates applied for under Code 33 – Immigration/Citizenship. The Australian Federal Police (<https://www.afp.gov.au/what-we-do/services/criminal-records/national-police-checks>) issue these certificates. We don't accept standard disclosure certificates or certificates issued by Australian state or territory police.

For immigration purposes, police certificates are valid for 12 months from the issue date.

If anyone in the application served in the armed forces of any country, they must provide military service records or discharge papers.

Children over 16 years must complete and provide [Form 80 Personal particulars for assessment including character assessment \(596KB PDF\)](#) ([/form-listing/forms/80.pdf](#)).

Documents for dependants under 18

For every dependant under 18 years old who is applying with the child, provide:

- identity documents
 - proof of the child's relationship with them, like a birth certificate
 - character documents, if applicable
-

Parental responsibility documents

Any applicant under 18 years of age must get consent to migrate to Australia. This must be from everyone who has a legal right to decide where the child lives.

They must complete either:

- [Form 1229 Consent form to grant an Australian visa to a child under the age of 18 years \(276KB PDF\) \(/form-listing/forms/1229.pdf\)](#)
- a statutory declaration giving consent for the child to stay in Australia on this visa.

Include an identity document with the signature and photo of the person who completed the form or declaration. This could be a:

- passport
- driver's licence.

Alternatively, you can show us:

- an Australian court order that allows the child to migrate to Australia, or
- that the laws of the child's home country allow them to leave their home country.

Tell us you are getting help

To nominate someone to:

- receive your correspondence, use [Form 956A Appointment or withdrawal of an authorised recipient \(301KB PDF\) \(/form-listing/forms/956a.pdf\)](#)
- provide immigration assistance, use [Form 956 Appointment of a registered migration agent, legal practitioner or exempt person \(308KB PDF\) \(/form-listing/forms/956.pdf\)](#).

Send written notification or your forms with your paper application.

Prepare the documents

Translate

Have all non-English documents translated into English.

Translators in Australia must be accredited by the [National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters \(https://www.naati.com.au/\)](https://www.naati.com.au/).

Translators outside Australia do not have to be accredited. But on each translation, they must include their:

- full name

- address and telephone number
- qualifications and experience in the language they are translating

These details must be in English.

Certify

Do not certify police certificates. Send us the originals.

Have all other documents [certified \(/help-support/applying-online-or-on-paper/on-paper/certified-copy\)](/help-support/applying-online-or-on-paper/on-paper/certified-copy). This includes:

- non-English documents
- English translations

Keep

Keep a copy of the completed application.

Send

Send us:

- original police certificates
- certified copies of all other documents
- as much information as possible to help us decide your application
- each document only once, even if you are using to show more than one thing
- all documents with your application, if you can

Step 3

Apply for the visa

You must apply for this visa on paper.

Provide accurate information

Provide accurate information. See what happens [if you can't prove your identity or don't provide true information \(/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/providing-accurate-information\)](/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/providing-accurate-information).

Apply on paper

Complete the following 2 forms and send them together by post or courier to the Child and Other Family Processing Centre in Perth.

You must pay the application charge **before you post your application**. See [how to pay \(/help-support/applying-online-or-on-paper/on-paper/how-to-pay\)](/help-support/applying-online-or-on-paper/on-paper/how-to-pay).

We will not process your application until you pay the application charge. Your application should also include evidence of payment of the application charge. You must also include all the relevant supporting documentation.

- [Form 47CH Application for migration to Australia by a child \(564KB PDF\) \(/form-listing/forms/47ch.pdf\)](/form-listing/forms/47ch.pdf)
- [Form 40CH Sponsorship for a child to migrate to Australia \(544KB PDF\) \(/form-listing/forms/40ch.pdf\)](/form-listing/forms/40ch.pdf)

We cannot consider your application if you submit it at any other office or in any other way, as it will not be valid. You cannot submit applications for this visa in person.

You must complete the forms in English.

By post (with correct prepaid postage):

Department of Home Affairs
Child and Other Family Processing Centre
Locked Bag 7
NORTHBRIDGE WA 6865

By courier:

Department of Home Affairs
Child and Other Family Processing Centre
Wellington Central
836 Wellington Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

If any of the above steps are incomplete, your application may be invalid. We do not process invalid applications. We will notify you if this is the case, and if requested, return your application.

Do not send original documents with your application, only send [certified copies \(https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/applying-online-or-on-paper/on-paper/certified-copy\)](https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/applying-online-or-on-paper/on-paper/certified-copy). Keep a copy of your completed application for your own records, including any supporting documents.

Step 4

After applying

Status updates

We can't provide updates on the progress of the child's application within normal processing times. We will let you know if we need anything further.

Travel

Tell us if the child wants to travel outside Australia while we process the application. We need to know because if the child made the visa application in Australia, we can't grant the visa if they are outside Australia when we make our decision.

If the child leaves Australia, make sure they have a valid visa to return.

Learn about [visa expiry \(/visas/visa-about-to-expire\)](/visas/visa-about-to-expire).

Health exams

We will let you know when to arrange the child's [health examinations \(/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/health\)](/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/health).

Biometrics

We might ask for biometrics. We will let you know if you need to provide them.

Send more information

If you did not include all necessary documents when you applied, provide them as soon as you can.

We might also ask you for more information.

If the application was lodged **on or after 1 April 2020**:

- you can provide further necessary documents (that you did not provide with the application) to the Child and Other Family Processing Centre in Perth using the [Child and orphan relative visa processing centre form \(/help-support/departamental-forms/online-forms/child-and-orphan-relative-visa-processing-centre-form\)](/help-support/departamental-forms/online-forms/child-and-orphan-relative-visa-processing-centre-form).

If you lodged the application **before April 2020**:

- you can provide further necessary documents (that you did not provide with the application) to the processing office using the [Child and orphan relative visa processing centre form \(/help-](/help-)

[support/departmental-forms/online-forms/child-and-orphan-relative-visa-processing-centre-form](#)). You can also use the method advised in the acknowledgement letter.

Stay lawful

Make sure the child stays lawful by holding a valid visa while we process their application.

When the visa application was made, the child was granted a bridging visa associated with the application. If their current visa expires before we make a decision, the bridging visa will start. The child can stay in Australia on the bridging visa while we process their new visa application.

Learn more about [visa expiry \(/visas/visa-about-to-expire\)](#).

Add family members

You can add the child's dependent children to the their visa application any time before we make a decision.

Newborn children

Find out what to do if [your child is born after you apply \(/change-in-situation/had-a-baby\)](#).

Mistakes on the application

Let us know as soon as possible.

Complete [Form 1023 Notification of incorrect answers \(168KB PDF\) \(/form-listing/forms/1023.pdf\)](#).

Help with your application

Let us know if you no longer want someone to:

- receive your correspondence - complete [Form 956A Appointment or withdrawal of an authorised recipient \(301KB PDF\) \(/form-listing/forms/956a.pdf\)](#)
- provide immigration advice - complete [Form 956 Appointment of a registered migration agent, legal practitioner or exempt person \(308KB PDF\) \(/form-listing/forms/956.pdf\)](#).

Send written notification or your forms to the office your submitted your application.

For more information see [Who can help you with your application \(/help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/overview\)](#).

Tell us if things change

Things you need to let us know include:

- changes to your phone number, address or passport
- changes to your relationship status
- the birth of a child
- you want to withdraw the application

See how to tell us if [the situation changes \(/change-in-situation\)](#).

Step 5

Visa outcome

The child must be in Australia when we make a decision.

We will advise of our decision in writing. Keep a copy of the decision.

If we grant the child's visa, we will tell you the:

- visa grant number
- date the visa starts
- visa conditions.

If we refuse the child's visa we will tell you:

- why we refused the visa
- whether there is a right to a review of the decision.

We will not refund the application fee if we refuse the application.

When you have this visa

- [In Australia \(#haveThisVisa-index-0\)](#)
- [Leaving Australia \(#haveThisVisa-index-1\)](#)

In Australia

The child's obligations

The child and family members must obey all Australian laws.

See how long the child can stay

This is a permanent visa. The child can stay in Australia indefinitely.

For citizenship purposes, the child's permanent residence starts on the day they were granted the visa.

Tell us if things change

We need to know about:

- changes to the child's passport
- the birth of a child
- change of name

See how to let us know if there is a [change in the child's situation \(/change-in-situation\)](#).

Travel to and from Australia for 5 years

The child can travel to and from Australia as many times as they want for 5 years from the date we grant this visa. This is as long as the travel facility of this visa remains valid.

If the child wants to travel after the initial 5-year travel facility:

- they will need to apply for and be granted a [Resident Return \(RRV\) \(/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/resident-return-visa-155-157\)](#) visa so they can re-enter Australia as a permanent resident
- they might also want to consider Australian citizenship. If they become an Australian citizen, they don't require a visa to re-enter Australia. See more about eligibility requirements and current processing times for Australian citizenship

To see when the child's travel facility ends, use [VEVO \(https://online.immi.gov.au/evo/firstParty?actionType=query\)](#).

Work and study

The child may be able to work or study in Australia from the date we grant this visa. They are protected by Australian workplace law. See their workplace rights and entitlements (<https://www.fairwork.gov.au/how-we-will-help/templates-and-guides/factsheets/rights-and-obligations/visa-holders-and-migrant-workers-workplace-rights-and-entitlements>).

Bring a family member

Dependants can't be added to this visa after we have made a decision.

To find a visa for a family member, [explore visa options \(/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-finder\)](#).

Become an Australian citizen

After a certain time, the child might be eligible for Australian citizenship. Find out more about [becoming a citizen \(/citizenship/become-a-citizen\)](#).

For citizenship purposes, the child's permanent residence starts on the day they were granted the visa.

Leaving Australia

Before you leave

Check the child's travel documents

The child must have a valid passport or other travel document to leave Australia.

Check if the child needs a Resident Return visa to return to Australia as a permanent resident in [VEVO \(/visas/already-have-a-visa/check-visa-details-and-conditions/overview\)](#).

At the border

Leave the airport faster

We have an automated process that uses facial recognition technology and your ePassport. The child might be able to leave the airport faster using the [SmartGate \(https://www.abf.gov.au/smartgates\)](https://www.abf.gov.au/smartgates).

After you leave

Prove the child has been to Australia

Request your international movement records (<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/entering-and-leaving-australia/request-movement-records>) to get proof of your travel in and out of Australia.

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