



RESIDENT RETURN VISA (RRV)

Non Australian-citizen permanent residents or former permanent residents wishing to return to Australia as permanent residents

Please Note: If you hold Australian citizenship you must use an Australian passport to enter and exit Australia. RRVs cannot be granted to Australian citizens.

The RRV visa allows an Australian permanent resident or former permanent resident to return to Australia within a period of either 5 years (subclass 155), or 3 months (subclass 157). If you are not eligible for a 155 visa, you may be eligible for a 157 visa.

You should apply for an RRV visa if:

- you are a non-citizen Australian permanent resident or former permanent resident;
- you want to return to Australia as a permanent resident;
- you might not return to Australia within the validity period of your current permanent residency visa; and
- you believe you meet the criteria for an RRV.

You need not wait for your current permanent residency visa to expire before applying for a new one. You should check your eligibility for a new visa well before your existing visa expires in case there have been changes to eligibility requirements.

Basic eligibility requirements:

- you are a current or former permanent visa holder (and your permanent visa was not cancelled); or
- you were an Australian citizen but you are no longer an Australian citizen; and
- you have been physically present in Australia as a permanent resident for at least 2 years in the 5 years immediately preceding the date of your RRV application; or
- if you do not satisfy the 2 years in 5 physical residency requirement, you can demonstrate that you have substantial business, cultural, employment or personal ties with Australia which are of benefit to Australia (in certain circumstances you may also be required to show that you had compelling reasons for your last departure or continued absence from Australia). *More information about demonstrating substantial business, cultural, employment or personal ties with Australia can be found at http://www.immi.gov.au/migrants/_pdf/155-checklist.pdf*
- You may also qualify for an RRV if you are a spouse/partner or dependent child of a current RRV holder, and you have previously held Australian permanent residency.

If you are applying for a replacement evidence of a lost, stolen or damaged RRV visa, you must complete form 1085 and pay the relevant visa application charge.

Visa application charge – Please contact VFS for their accepted payment types and current immigration visa application charge amounts. VFS will charge a service fee above the visa application charge.

Further information regarding Australian visas is available on the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship website: www.immi.gov.au.

Please Note: The Australian High Commission, Pretoria, reserves the right to request further information at any time, if deemed necessary.

ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION MUST BE IN ENGLISH, OR ACCOMPANIED BY A CERTIFIED TRANSLATION. PLEASE SEE AND COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE OF SHEET AND HAND IN WITH VISA APPLICATION FORM.

RRV(155/157)

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

With your completed and signed application form 1085 you **must** include the following:

'✓' Here

- Current Valid Passport with at least 6 months validity **AND** a recent passport photograph (no older than 6 months).
- Proof of your last Australian permanent visa held (in old passport if applicable).
- If you are applying for a replacement of a lost, stolen or damaged RRV visa label – an affidavit explaining how the label was lost
- Payment of the Australian Government Visa Application Charge. Advice on how to pay this charge can be found at www.vfs-au.co.za **OR** if the Visa Application Charge has been paid to an office of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship in Australia, the original pink copy of the receipt must be submitted.
- A photocopy of the biodata page of your current valid passport.
- For a 5 year RRV (subclass 155): If you **have resided** in Australia as a permanent resident **for at least 2 out of the 5 years** before applying for the RRV, you only need to provide the above.

OR

- For a **5 year RRV (subclass 155)**: If you **have not** resided in Australia **for at least 2 out of the last 5 years** as an Australian permanent resident you must also provide:
 - Evidence of substantial business, cultural, employment or personal ties of benefit to Australia and documentary evidence to support your claims
 - If you have been absent from Australia for more than 5 years, immediately before the application for the visa, please provide compelling reasons for your absence. Documentary evidence will be required to support your claims

OR

- For a **3 month RRV (subclass 157)**: you must have been in Australia as an Australian permanent resident for one day or more in the last 5 years and you must demonstrate **compassionate or compelling reasons** for your last departure from Australia; and
- If you have been outside of Australia for more than 3 months, you have **compelling and compassionate reasons** for the absence (documentary evidence to support your claims must be provided).

OR

- If you are applying on the basis that you are the spouse/partner or dependent child of a current RRV holder, and you have previously held permanent residence – evidence of your previous permanent residence and passport must be submitted. A full unabridged birth certificate as well as marriage certificates must be submitted to show your relationship to the RRV holder.
- Dependents over the age of 18 years applying as part of the family unit must complete form 47A. Documentary evidence must be presented to provide proof that the applicant's basic living needs are being met by their parents.

I HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE PROVIDED ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION FOR A DECISION TO BE MADE ON MY VISA APPLICATION.

Signed:..... Date:.....

Print Name:.....