

## WORLD YOUTH DAY (WYD) 2008

### APPLYING FOR A VISA IN SOUTH AFRICA TO ATTEND WYD

#### WHAT IS WYD?

WYD is a major international event organised by the Catholic Church that gathers young people from around the world to build bridges of friendship and hope between continents, peoples and cultures. WYD will be held in Australia from 15 to 20 July 2008.

#### OFFICIAL PILGRIMS WISHING TO TRAVEL TO WYD

A formal registration process is in place for pilgrims wishing to attend this major event. To attend WYD as an official pilgrim, you must have the endorsement of the Catholic bishop in your country of residence who is responsible for WYD registrations.

Visa applications to attend WYD as an official pilgrim can only be lodged once your registration to attend this event has been confirmed by the Australian Catholic Church. For more information on WYD, or to register as an official pilgrim, please visit the official World Youth Day website at [www.wyd2008.org](http://www.wyd2008.org).

If you have registered as a pilgrim and would like information on lodging your visa application, including what supporting documents must be submitted, please visit the following website: [http://www.immi.gov.au/visitors/tourist/wyd\\_08/tourist-wyd-08.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/visitors/tourist/wyd_08/tourist-wyd-08.htm)

#### VISA FEE EXEMPTION FOR REGISTERED PILGRIMS

If you have registered and been accepted as an official pilgrim, you will be entitled to apply for a Tourist visa free of Australian Government visa application fees.

Please note: To be eligible for visa fee exemption, you **must** print a copy of the World Youth Day cover sheet which you obtained when registering as a pilgrim on the World Youth Day website, fully complete it and submit it with your application form and other supporting documents. **If you do not provide this cover sheet, you will have to pay a visa fee.**

#### LODGING A VISA APPLICATION THROUGH A SERVICE DELIVERY PARTNER (SDP)

The Australian High Commission in Pretoria has an arrangement with VFS Global to provide visa lodgement services which offer greater accessibility and extended opening hours. You may lodge your visa application to attend WYD through VFS. While no visa fee is required if you are registered as an official pilgrim, VFS will charge a service fee to handle your visa application. Please see the VFS website at <http://www.vfs-au.co.za/>.

#### WHAT IF I AM NOT AN OFFICIAL PILGRIM?

People wishing to travel to Australia for World Youth Day related events, but who have not registered as an official pilgrim, can apply for a tourist visa for Australia under standard application procedures. This involves:

- completing and signing a tourist visa application form (48R);
- providing all required supporting documentation in support of the application (including completing an accompanying Tourist visa checklist);
- paying the required Australian government visa application fee.

For more information on applying for an Australian tourist visa, or to download visa application forms and checklists, please visit <http://www.vfs-au.co.za/>.