

Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Australian Visa Options for Event Participants:

There are many visa options available to people wishing to visit Australia. The appropriate visa option will depend, amongst other things, on the person's purpose for visiting Australia. Congress participants may be eligible for the visa options listed below.

Participants, attendees and speakers that ***will not be working, performing or otherwise be paid to contribute at the conference*** may be eligible to apply for the following visa options:

Visitor (subclass 600)(Business stream) visa:

- This visa has an AUD\$145 visa application charge (VAC)
- This visa permits the visa holder to stay up to 3 months in Australia
- For more information see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/visitor-600/business-visitor-stream>

Please note: The Visa application charge (VAC) for the Visitor visa (subclass 600) may be waived for an applicant who applies in the course of acting as a representative of a foreign government and provides the department with supporting evidence. In most cases, such persons will identify themselves at time of application by presenting a diplomatic, or official passport and a third person note of support from their government.

Electronic Travel Authority – ETA (subclass 601):

- There is no visa application charge (VAC). There is an online application service charge of AUD\$20
- This visa permits the visa holder to stay up to 3 months in Australia at a time
- This is an auto-granted visa for eligible passport holders
- For more information see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/electronic-travel-authority-601>

eVisitor (subclass 651)(Business Stream) visa:

- This is a free visa to eligible passport holders
- Permits the visa holder to stay up to 3 months in Australia at a time
- For more information see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/evisitor-651>

A speaker, presenter, exhibitor, or other contributor ***invited to participate in an event by an Australian organisation*** may be eligible to apply for a:

Temporary Activity (subclass 408)(Invited Participant) visa.

- This visa has a AUD\$315 visa application charge (VAC)
- This visa permits the visa holder to stay up to 3 months in Australia
- You must be invited to take part in a community-based event in Australia
- For more information see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-activity-408/invited-for-other-social-and-cultural-activity>

Event attendees, speakers and exhibitors ***that will be working, or otherwise be paid to contribute at the conference*** may be eligible for the following visa options:

Temporary Activity (subclass 408)(Invited Participant) visa (with an inviting Australian organisation).

- This visa has a AUD\$315 visa application charge (VAC)
- This visa permits the visa holder to stay up to 3 months in Australia
- You must be invited to take part in a community-based event in Australia
- For more information see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-activity-408/invited-for-other-social-and-cultural-activity>

Temporary Work (subclass 400)(Short Stay Specialist) visa (without an inviting Australian organisation).

- This visa has a AUD\$315 visa application charge (VAC)
- This visa permits the visa holder to stay up to 3 months in Australia
- Work in a temporary, short-term, highly specialised job
- For more information see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-work-400>

Visa Processing for Event Participants:

Processing times include applications lodged online and by paper. Where available, applicants should lodge their application online as it helps streamline visa application processing. Event participants are advised to apply for a visa **8-10 weeks** prior to their intended dates of travel to ensure timely visa processing.

Visa applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis, and actual processing times can vary due to individual circumstances including:

- whether the applicant has lodged a complete application, including all necessary supporting documents and paid associated visa application charges

- how promptly the applicant responds to any requests for additional information
 - how long it takes to perform required checks on the supporting information provided
 - how long it takes to receive additional information from external agencies, particularly in relation to health, character, and national security requirements
 - when the application is lodged taking the current global visa processing times into account
- Processing times are impacted each month by changes in application volumes, seasonal peaks, complex cases, and incomplete applications.

Please note that this information is current as at 31 January 2022.