

AUS TRA LIA

IN BRIEF

Summary Edition

Acknowledgement of

COUNTRY

**The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
acknowledges the traditional custodians
throughout Australia and pays respect to
elders past, present and emerging.**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers
are warned that the following pages may contain
images of deceased persons.

An aerial photograph of a rugged coastline. The top half of the image shows deep turquoise water with white foam from breaking waves. The bottom half shows a rocky shore with reddish-brown and dark grey stones. The text 'WELCOME TO OUR GREAT SOUTHERN LAND' is overlaid in large, bold, white capital letters on the left side of the image.

WELCOME TO OUR GREAT SOUTHERN LAND



Australia is one of the most multicultural countries in the world, and home to the world's oldest continuing culture.

We have a highly skilled workforce and a proud history of democracy and stable government.

Australia is a land like no other and is one of 17 countries that together account for almost 70 per cent of the world's species.¹ We are home to 10 per cent of the world's biodiversity from tropical rainforests in the north to the red deserts of the centre and the snowfields of the south-east. Three Australian cities — Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide — were listed in the top ten most liveable cities in 2019 by the Economist Intelligence Unit's global liveability index.²

Today, Australia is one of the globe's most multicultural countries with world-class cuisine and a dynamic creative sector that reflects its varied origins. Australians' passion for sport and for the vast outdoors are matched by excellence in research, design, innovation and science.

Australia's Indigenous peoples have lived on and managed the land for more than 60,000 years.³

However, the early treatment of Australia's Indigenous population was marked by conflict and mistreatment.

Since the 1960s successive Australian Governments have joined with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to work towards reconciliation. In July each year, NAIDOC Week celebrations mark the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. In 2008, the Australian Parliament passed a motion of Apology to Indigenous Australians for past mistreatment and injustices.


Image courtesy of Holger Link



📍 Sydney Opera House, New South Wales

AUSTRALIANS
**WHO
WE ARE**





Australia stretches across an incredible 4,000 kilometres (2,485 miles), which is roughly the same distance as New York to Los Angeles.



📍 Royal Botanic Gardens, Victoria

From 1788, Britain established a penal colony in Australia. Free settlers followed in increasing numbers, gradually outnumbering convicts, with a colony made up entirely of free settlers established in South Australia in the 1830s. In the 1850s gold was discovered and the gold rush that followed brought people to Australia from all over the world. In 1901, Australia became a nation, forming the Commonwealth of Australia. One year later, Australia became one of the first countries in the world to give women the right to vote.

In 1945, Australia became a founding member of the United Nations. We take our international responsibilities seriously and work closely with other countries to promote peace and security. Since 1947, over 65,000 Australians have served in more than 50 peace and security operations around the world.⁴

Over 30 per cent of the Australian resident population were born overseas, and around 45% of Australians have at least one parent who was born overseas.⁵ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians are now joined by people from nearly 200 countries, making Australia home to over 25 million people from a variety of cultural, ethnic, linguistic and religious backgrounds.⁶

OVER

30%

**OF THE
AUSTRALIAN
RESIDENT
POPULATION
WERE BORN
OVERSEAS**

AND AROUND 45% OF
AUSTRALIANS HAVE AT
LEAST ONE PARENT WHO
WAS BORN OVERSEAS.



STRONG AND OPEN ECONOMY


Australians enjoy some of the highest living standards in the world, and despite being home to only 0.3 per cent of the global population, Australia was the world's 14th largest economy in 2019.⁷

Tourism is one of Australia's largest export industries, with international visitors to Australia spending \$44.6 billion in 2018–19. The tourism industry directly employs over 666,000 people.⁸ Australia entered the COVID-19 crisis from a position of strength. Up to the onset of the crisis, the Australian economy remained strong and diverse, recording 28 consecutive years of annual economic growth.⁹



**IN 2018–19
INTERNATIONAL
VISITORS TO
AUSTRALIA SPENT**

\$44.6 BILLION

 Uluru, Northern Territory

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have continued to assist countries in the Indo-Pacific to access safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines.

Our regional vaccine program will ensure that Pacific countries achieve full COVID-19 vaccine coverage.

The Indo-Pacific region is vital to Australia's security and prosperity. The region encompasses Australia's Pacific family, our close neighbours, our United States ally, and our other major strategic and trading partners. Placing the Pacific at the centre of Australia's foreign policy, the Pacific Step-up is lifting Australia's engagement in, and partnership with, our region to help grow economies, build resilience and enhance regional stability. As countries recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, Australia's interests lie in an open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific.




Image courtesy of Department of Defence



Australia prides itself on prioritising women's economic empowerment, safety, and leadership.

Women's workforce participation was at a record high of 61.5 per cent in January 2020, prior to the outbreak of COVID-19.¹⁰ Australia continues to advocate and invest internationally to strengthen and protect women's rights.

In 2017, Australians voted for marriage equality, and in 2023 we will host World Pride in Sydney to mark the 45th anniversary of the first Mardi Gras Parade and 50th Anniversary of Australian Gay Pride Week.

 **61.5%**
**OF WOMEN
PARTICIPATE
IN THE
WORKFORCE**

VIBRANT RESEARCH COMMUNITY

📍 Square Kilometre Array,
Western Australia

16 Australians have won Nobel Prizes, half of them in Physiology or Medicine. Innovation drives Australian enterprise, science and research sectors, as well as our response to global crises, and is a priority of the Australian Government. We have a vibrant research community working to address global challenges and we have developed and implemented a National Innovation and Science Agenda that supports smart ideas to create business growth, local jobs and global success. Australia is ranked 1st in technological readiness and ranked 5th for global entrepreneurship.¹¹

We are a leading Antarctic nation, driving international efforts to preserve Antarctica as a natural reserve devoted to peace and science. We take great pride in this role, with around 80 scientists and support staff living and working on Australia's Antarctic stations during winter, with this number increasing to 200 during summer.

Australia's network of Free Trade Agreements, strong business and cultural ties with Asia, and longstanding trade, investment and research links with Europe and North America help grow the Australian economy.¹² One in five Australian jobs rely on trade.¹³ Australia's top ten trading partners in 2019–20 were China, the United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, Singapore, New Zealand, India, Germany and Malaysia.

We also provide development assistance to developing countries to increase their economic growth and reduce poverty. In 2019–20, Australia provided \$4 billion in development assistance — this included \$1.4 billion to the Pacific.¹⁴

One in five Australian jobs rely on trade.

An aerial photograph of the Sydney Opera House, a large, white, shell-shaped building situated on a peninsula in Sydney, Australia. The building is surrounded by water, and several ferries are visible in the harbor. In the background, the Sydney city skyline is visible, including several tall skyscrapers. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

AUSTRALIA AND THE WORLD



📍 Circular Quay, New South Wales



Australia is a world leader in low emissions technology and is focussed on advancing practical, scalable and commercially viable technologies to drive the global transition to net-zero. Australia is positioning to be a global leader in hydrogen production and export, and we have some of the best wind and solar resources in the world. Australia is committed to sustainable and renewable energy solutions.

We are building and investing in renewables at record levels

WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION SYSTEM

Education is Australia's largest services export, and in 2019 we were the world's third most popular destination for international students.¹⁵

Australia offers a diverse range of study options for international students, with more than 1,100 institutions and over 22,000 courses.¹⁶ More than half of Australia's universities are listed in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (2019) and six are in the top 100.¹⁷

The 'Australia Awards' program offers emerging leaders from around the world the opportunity to undertake study, research and professional development in premier tertiary institutions in Australia and the region. The New Colombo Plan (NCP) provides opportunities for Australian undergraduate students to study and undertake internships in 40 locations throughout the Indo-Pacific region.


Australia Awards scholars from Tonga, together with the High Commissioner for Tonga, HRH Angelika Latufuipeka Tuku'Aho



1,100
INSTITUTIONS

22,000
COURSES





Australia has one of the most sophisticated creative sectors in the world and is home to world-leading cultural institutions.

WORLD-LEADING CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

Bangarra Dance Theatre performs Bennelong at the Sydney Coliseum Theatre in New South Wales

Through art and performance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists pass down their dynamic cultures to future generations. Australia's vibrant and diverse performing arts sector continues to captivate and grow its audiences in Australia and internationally.



AUSTRALIANS ALSO LOVE SPORT



Almost all of the world's sports are played in Australia, with women and men well represented in sporting activities across the nation.¹⁸ In 2032, Australia will host the Summer Olympics and Paralympic Games in Brisbane and will co-host with New Zealand the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2023, the world's largest sporting event for women.

The Australian Government is fully committed to supporting delivery of the most successful Women's World Cup and creating an enduring legacy for women's sport.

Image courtesy of Rachel Bach – Behind the White Line

Host of major global sporting events including:



2022
FIBA Women's
Basketball
World Cup



2023
FIFA Women's
Football
World Cup



2025
ICF Canoe
Slalom World
championship



2026
Commonwealth
Games, Victoria



2027
Netball
World Cup



2029
Women's
Rugby
World Cup



2032
Brisbane
Summer
Olympic and
Paralympic
Games



Men's
T20 Cricket
World Cup



World
Transplant
Games



Men's Rugby
World Cup



UCI Road
World
Championship



If you're not an Australian citizen, you need a visa before you travel or transit through Australia.

We have strict biosecurity laws as Australia is free of the world's most serious pests and diseases, and their introduction could have significant environmental and economic impacts for the country.

Australia has world-class medical research and health systems and all Australians have access to quality and affordable health care — for both physical and mental health. While English is the national language, more than 300 languages are spoken in Australian homes. The top five (excluding English) are Mandarin, Arabic, Cantonese, Vietnamese, and Italian.

For more information on our Great Southern Land go to the full version at [Australia in Brief | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade \(www.dfat.gov.au\)](#)

Image courtesy of Tourism Whitsundays



Image courtesy @daxon



📍 Australian Parliament House,
Australian Capital Territory

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This booklet should be attributed as Australia in Brief – Summary Edition, Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

ISBN 978-1-74322-161-7

ISSN 0815-9939

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