

Working in Australia



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Working in Australia through the AMA (WA)

The Australian Medical Association (WA) is the professional association for medical practitioners in Western Australia.

AMA Recruit (AMA), a division of AMA (WA), provides a recruitment service to doctors seeking employment as General Practitioners, hospital and privately based Specialists. The AMA supports doctors by directly sponsoring and organising employment arrangements in Australia. Doctors sponsored by the AMA are guided through this process. Additional services provided include sponsorship, registration, placements, employment contracts, orientation and administrative support.

Many doctors working in Australia have relocated from overseas. Doctors who are sponsored by the AMA are assisted and supported where applicable as they move from Temporary Residency to Permanent Residency visas.

Employment through the AMA – What we do

Doctors sponsored through the AMA to work in Australia are provided with comprehensive support including:

- Visa and sponsorship arrangements coordinated with Immigration;
- Medical Board Registration process including registration pathway guidance, documentation collection and application support and lodgement;
- Placement arrangements including contract negotiations, terms and conditions;
- Travel Support;
- Up to 2 weeks accommodation support on arrival in Australia;
- Orientation program of up to 2 weeks, which includes Australian health system information;
- Referral to taxation and superannuation organisations;
- Travel costs covered to rural assignments (where applicable).

Immigration – Visa and Sponsorship

The AMA directly sponsors suitably qualified Overseas Trained Doctors through Immigration to work in Australia in an “Area of Need” and / or “District of Workforce Shortage” as Temporary Resident Doctors. Positions in these areas occur in both hospitals and private practice and suit doctors with the appropriate hospital, specialist or general practice experience.

Sponsorship through the AMA enables doctors the flexibility to move from one location to the next without undertaking new sponsorship at every location. This allows greater employment opportunities and the ability to explore many aspects of medicine throughout Australia.

Once the sponsored doctor has passed specific specialist exams or has met the requirements for unconditional registration with the Medical Board, the AMA is able to support an application to Immigration for Permanent Residency where applicable.





Registration with the Medical Board

As part of the Immigration visa and sponsorship process, the AMA coordinates the Medical Board registration process for the Overseas Trained Doctor.

In Australia, the doctor is required to be registered in the State where the medical service is being delivered. While the State based Medical Board processes vary, medical skills standards and English language proficiency requirements are consistent. Applications to the Medical Boards for registration take into account the individual skills and experience of the doctor in relation to the requirements of the position. Various registration pathways are available and the AMA guides doctors seeking to work in Australia through this process. Guidance includes information on College or AMC examinations, documentation verification, English language documentation and interview requirements of the Medical Board.

Once preliminary support is obtained from the Medical Board and Immigration sponsorship has been confirmed, the Overseas Trained Doctor is then able to apply for a visa.

Doctors trained overseas are required to demonstrate that their qualifications are fully recognised by the appropriate Medical College or Australian Medical Council within a particular period to retain ongoing registration.

Further details regarding the registration requirements are outlined throughout the recruitment and sponsorship process with the AMA.

Contracts of Employment / Placements

Initial

Through the AMA, short and longer term contracts are negotiated and offered. The AMA as the sponsor works closely with many health sector partners and clients to ensure that the most appropriate placement arrangements occur.

Employment conditions vary depending on the position; however the employment salary and benefits packages offered reflect standard Australian conditions.

Most of the regional and rural area positions offer accommodation and travel support, while rural hospitals may provide district allowances in addition to the base salary. Doctors who are employed in private practices in the outer metropolitan areas of major cities or in city based hospital positions tend to be responsible for their own accommodation and travel arrangements.

Ongoing

While under the sponsorship of the AMA the contract of employment is negotiated and established for the overseas trained doctor. For assistance in the implementation of long term contracts or contract arrangements, AMA members may access industrial officers at the AMA to assist with the development of these contracts.



Support Services on Arrival in Australia

Private / Public Sector Contracts

For doctors working in general practice, specialist practice or in private hospitals employment contracts are negotiated on a one by one basis. For doctors working in the public hospital system in Western Australia the AMA negotiates employment conditions.

As employment options vary depending on the position, employment contracts are established for doctors sponsored by the AMA that reflect standard Australian conditions.

Medical Indemnity

All doctors contracted to work in Australia are required to have a medical indemnity policy with an Australian insurer. The AMA provides the Temporary Resident Doctor with details of the medical indemnity insurers in Australia and helps organise arrangements that cover the doctor both for the period of employment in Australia as well as for the extended "cover" that is required at the end of the contract period.

Orientation

On arrival in Australia, doctors sponsored through the AMA undertake an orientation program of approximately two weeks. Appointments covered during this time include (where applicable):

- Pre-employment clinical interview with the State Medical Board;
- Registration with the State Medical Board;
- Application for Provider Number with Medicare Australia;
- Medical Indemnity;
- Covering topics such as taxation, banking, financial options, health care insurance, superannuation; and
- Practice Orientation.

Useful Websites for working in Australia

Australian Medical Association (WA)

www.amawa.com.au

Australian Medical Council

www.amc.org.au

Immigration

www.immi.gov.au



To arrange your medical adventure contact AMA Recruit

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