



# Settlement facts for permanent visa holders (subclass 190, 186 and 187)

## Finding a house

There are many short term accommodation options from hotels to serviced apartments available in Western Australia. For more information contact the Western Australian Visitor Centre on +61 8 9483 1111 or visit their website at [westernaustralia.com](http://westernaustralia.com)

Fully furnished or unfurnished rental properties are available through real estate agents or private landlords. As a permanent resident you can also buy property in Australia. For more information on buying or renting a property, or to search for available properties, check the local newspaper or visit a real estate website such as [reiwa.com.au](http://reiwa.com.au)

## Employment

In Australia there are a number of different ways you can look for job opportunities, including through job search websites, in local newspapers or through the services of a recruitment agent.

If you need extra support you may be eligible to register with jobactive, a government funded service providing support and assistance to help you find employment. This may include access to services, training, skills development and work experience. For more information visit [jobsearch.gov.au/serviceproviders](http://jobsearch.gov.au/serviceproviders)

The Overseas Qualifications Unit can assess eligible qualifications you have gained overseas and advise on your level of education compared

to the Australian Qualification Framework. This may help you when you are seeking employment. Visit our website at [migration.wa.gov.au](http://migration.wa.gov.au) for more information.

## Unemployment and other benefits

As an Australian permanent resident you may be eligible for some Australian social security payments through Centrelink. With the exception of family assistance payments, newly arrived residents usually need to wait two years (Newly Arrived Resident's Waiting Period) before they can access payments and benefits.

You may be eligible for an exemption from the waiting period if you are an Australian citizen, a family member of an Australian citizen or long term resident, or if you are in hardship due to a substantial change in circumstances beyond your control. To find out more visit the Centrelink website at [humanservices.gov.au/centrelink](http://humanservices.gov.au/centrelink)

## Children and education

All children must attend school in Western Australia up until they are 16 years of age. If your child's birthday is between 1 January and 30 June, they must start pre-primary in the year they turn five. If they turn five years of age between 1 July and December 31, they must wait for the following year to enrol.

## Contact us:

Migration Services  
DTWD – Customer Service Centre  
GPO Building, Level 7, 3 Forrest Place, Perth WA 6000  
T: +61 8 9224 6540 | E: [settlementservices@dtwd.wa.gov.au](mailto:settlementservices@dtwd.wa.gov.au) |  
W: [migration.wa.gov.au/services/settlement-services](http://migration.wa.gov.au/services/settlement-services)

Our opening hours are **Monday to Friday**, 8.30 am to 4.30 pm  
(except public holidays)





Children can start Kindergarten in the year they turn four years old, however Kindergarten is not compulsory. If they turn four after June 30 they must wait for the following year to enrol. Sixteen and 17 year olds must be enrolled in school or training, be employed, or be in a combination of school/training/employment.

Education at public (government) schools is generally free, although most schools do have a small voluntary annual fee. Complete information on student fees and other additional charges can be found on the Department of Education website at [education.wa.edu.au](http://education.wa.edu.au)

For more information on private education visit the association of Independent Schools of Western Australia website at [ais.wa.edu.au](http://ais.wa.edu.au) or the Catholic Education Office of Western Australia at [ceo.wa.edu.au](http://ceo.wa.edu.au)

## Health

Permanent residents and those applying for permanent residency are eligible to access the Australian government's health fund, Medicare.

Medicare covers:

- free or subsidised treatment by health professionals such as doctors, specialists, optometrists and in specific circumstances dentists and other allied health practitioners;
- free treatment and accommodation as a public Medicare patient in a public hospital; and
- a percentage of services and procedures if you are a private patient in a public or private hospital. This does not include hospital accommodation and items such as theatre fees and medicines.

To access Medicare you will need to enrol and be issued with a Medicare card. Permanent residents will receive a green (full) card and those applying for permanent residency

will receive a blue (interim) card. For further information including eligibility details and enrolment information visit the Medicare website at [humanservices.gov.au/medicare](http://humanservices.gov.au/medicare) or call 132 011.

To receive cover for stays in a private hospital and extras like dental and physiotherapy, you may decide to take out private health insurance. Please note that higher premiums can be incurred if you wait to purchase private health insurance after your 31st birthday or 12 months after the date you registered for a Medicare card (if you are already over the age of 31). For more information on private health insurance visit [privatehealth.gov.au](http://privatehealth.gov.au)

## Citizenship

You may be able to apply for Australian Citizenship if you have been living in Australia on a valid visa for the four years immediately prior to applying for citizenship. This four years must include at least 12 months as a permanent resident. You must not have been outside of Australia for more than one year total in those four years, including no more than 90 days in the year immediately before applying.

Visit the Department of Immigration and Border Protection website at [border.gov.au](http://border.gov.au) for more information.

## Electoral

You must be an Australian citizen to vote in Australian State, Federal and local government elections.

## More information

Contact the Settlement Services team:

**T:** +61 8 9224 6540

**E:** [settlementservices@dtwd.wa.gov.au](mailto:settlementservices@dtwd.wa.gov.au)

For more detailed information on permanent residency, visit [border.gov.au/Trav/Work](http://border.gov.au/Trav/Work)