

**Move to South Australia**  
**SKILLED + BUSINESS MIGRATION**



# Settlement information for South Australian migrants



[migration.sa.gov.au](https://migration.sa.gov.au)

Being the most central of the Australian states, South Australia is well placed to welcome new migrants with its low cost of living, commitment to building a resilient, diverse and productive economy based on a highly skilled and innovative workforce across a wide variety of industry sectors.

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Please Note: Any information about the law in Australia or South Australia is provided as general information only and is not legal advice. This document is a starting point only and is not a substitute for legal or professional advice. While the Department has attempted to ensure the information is accurate at the time of publishing, no responsibility will be accepted for any errors or omissions and the Government of South Australia will not be liable for any loss or damage incurred by any person as a consequence of any use, reference or reliance on this information. Any such use, reference or reliance shall be at the sole risk of that person who should seek their own legal and or/professional advice if required.

This document is subject to change by the South Australian Government.



# 1 Welcome to South Australia

Adelaide, South Australia's capital city, is consistently recognised as one of the top ten most liveable places in the world. It is renowned for its festivals, cultural life and sporting events. Adelaide's high-tech growth industries include defence, space, technology and advanced manufacturing.

## 1.1 South Australian Regions

Regional cities include Mt Gambier in the State's south east, Murray Bridge in the Murraylands, Renmark, Loxton and Berri in the Riverland, Port Pirie, Port Augusta and Whyalla in the north and Ceduna in the far west. Additionally, there are a number of regional centres including Roxby Downs, Coober Pedy, and Quorn.

Many regional centres have available a wide range of education and health care facilities to meet the needs of the State's country population.

Smaller towns have a special place in the hearts of their residents – intensive community spirit and pride make small town living an enjoyable experience.

Key industries in South Australia include agribusiness, horticulture, viticulture (wine), aquaculture and fishing, construction and mining, health and social services, education, engineering, transport, tourism and hospitality.

Refer to the attached regional map summarising the areas of South Australia, or visit the [Skilled & Business Migration website](#).

Map is illustrative only and not drawn to scale.



- 1 Adelaide**  
Rated in the top 10 most liveable cities in the world
- 2 Adelaide Hills**  
Experience a change of pace 30 minutes from the city centre
- 3 Barossa**  
Home to some of the world's most lauded vineyards
- 4 Eyre Peninsula**  
A frontier territory that surprises and delights
- 5 Flinders Ranges and Outback**  
Beautiful landscape will stay with you forever
- 6 Kangaroo Island and Fleurieu Peninsula**  
Everything from whale watching to wine tasting
- 7 Limestone Coast**  
Is a treasure trove of natural wonders
- 8 Murray River**  
Full of family fun and unique experiences
- 9 Yorke Peninsula**  
Experience the great outdoors in all its wonder

## 1.2 Climate

South Australia offers warm, dry summers and short, mild winters.

Summer is between the months of December to February. South Australian summers are dry and can get quite hot. The sun can be extremely intense in Australia.

Autumn is between the months of March to May. There's a lot of sunshine and the weather usually stays in the low to mid 20s.

Winter is between the months of June to August. South Australia gets most of its rainfall during the winter months. Winter temperatures in South Australia hover around 15.9°C. It gets colder in the Adelaide Hills and the Outback, often dipping below 10°C.

Spring is between the months September to November. The average daily temperature in spring is a pleasant 21.7°C.

For more information about South Australian weather and climate, visit the [Bureau of Meteorology website](#).

## 1.3 Interpreting and translating services

If you need translating and interpreting services, please visit:

### The Interpreting and Translating Centre

[www.translate.sa.gov.au](http://www.translate.sa.gov.au) | Level 4, 44 Pirie Street, Adelaide SA 5000 | Phone: **1800 280 203**

Alternatively, you can contact the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters NAATI on **8410 5233** or visit: [www.naati.com.au](http://www.naati.com.au) for a list of translators.

## 1.4 English language classes

The Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) provides English language tuition and courses to eligible migrants. The AMEP is delivered at around 307 locations across Australia in major cities as well as rural and regional areas.

To find out if you are eligible or to register for the program visit:

AMEP: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/settling-in-australia/amep/overview>

TAFE SA English Language Services is a South Australian government education provider that delivers the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) throughout South Australia.

English Language Services: [www.tafesa.edu.au/english-language-services](http://www.tafesa.edu.au/english-language-services)

# 2

## Housing and accommodation

The most widely used practice for finding a rental property or buying property is from real estate websites, newspapers and agents.

### Short term accommodation

When looking to find accommodation in South Australia, there are many options available including short term or house-sharing offerings. The benefit of short term accommodation is that you give yourself time to work out where you want to live as you familiarise yourself in a new city.

There are websites available so it is important to do your research to find something that suits your needs and budget. Some suggestions include:

[www.flatmates.com.au/adelaide](http://www.flatmates.com.au/adelaide)

[www.realestate.com.au/share/adelaide-5000](http://www.realestate.com.au/share/adelaide-5000)

[www.airbnb.com.au](http://www.airbnb.com.au)

### Long term housing

Searching for a rental house or an apartment requires you to consider many factors, for example, choosing a location that you like, that you can afford and that is close to all the amenities that you and your family may require such as schools, hospitals, shops, parks etc.

### Renting practicalities

- ▶ A tenancy lease agreement will need to be signed by the tenant and the landlord/agent
- ▶ All tenants will need to pay a tenancy bond or a deposit (usually 4-6 weeks rent) which is lodged with Consumer and Business Services (CBS) by the landlord or an agent. This bond is used as financial protection on case the tenant breached the tenancy agreement. The bond will be returned at the end of the lease period.
- ▶ Expect property inspections every 3-6 months, usually undertaken by the agent or landlord.

Rental and sale properties are available through real estate agents or private landlords in South Australia.

Information about private rental options and support, how to secure accommodation and landlord and tenant responsibilities can be found by visiting: <https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/housing/renting-and-letting>

For more information visit: [www.realestate.com.au](http://www.realestate.com.au) or [www.domain.com.au](http://www.domain.com.au)

Both private tenants and landlords are protected by the Residential Tenancies Act 1995 that sets out the rights and obligations of both parties, for more details please visit: [www.cbs.sa.gov.au/renting-letting-advice](http://www.cbs.sa.gov.au/renting-letting-advice)

If you think you are treated unfavourably or unfairly by an agent/landlord, please contact:

- ▶ The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs: [www.cbs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cbs.sa.gov.au)
- ▶ Equal Opportunity Commission: [www.eoc.sa.gov.au](http://www.eoc.sa.gov.au)



### Stamp Duty on properties

If you are considering buying a property, be aware of transactional expenses that are in addition to the cost of your property. Stamp duty is a government tax paid by a property buyer on the purchase of the property. Stamp duty is calculated differently in each Australian State, for information on the stamp duty rate in South Australia please visit the Revenue SA website at <https://www.revenuesa.sa.gov.au/stampduty>

# 3

## Healthcare and private health insurance

Different types of visas carry different health insurance requirements, so it's important to check and understand your visa conditions.

Permanent visa holders are entitled to Medicare, the Australian Government's health insurance scheme that gives you and your family access to a range of medical services for free or significantly subsidised. To apply for a Medicare card please contact the Australian Government Department of Human Services website: <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/medicare>

If you are a temporary visa holder, you will not be eligible for Medicare, unless you are from a country with a reciprocal health care agreement. Even minor medical procedures or visits to the doctor can be costly. It is strongly recommended that you take up private health insurance and choose a policy that suits your family's circumstances.

Ambulance services are not free and can be very expensive; you should seriously consider Ambulance cover as a top priority. Some health covers also cover ambulance costs

You will need to study and compare insurance products from different private health insurance providers and make the choice which best suits your needs and situation. Please make sure you understand what you sign.

Please note that the above is only a reference, for more information please contact health insurance providers.

For more information visit: [www.privatehealth.gov.au](http://www.privatehealth.gov.au)

To find out more about the Australian Government's reciprocal health care agreement visit: [www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/reciprocal-health-care-agreements](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/reciprocal-health-care-agreements)

# 4

## General health services

For information on health issues and support services visit:

- ▶ General Health information is available through the SA Health website: [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au)
- ▶ Healthdirect - or phone the 24/7 hotline on **1800 022 222**

### Finding a doctor

To find a local General Practice or pharmacy, including those that are open after hours, visit the [Healthdirect service finder](#) or the websites <https://www.hotdoc.com.au> and <https://healthengine.com.au>

### Health Information

GP Plus clinics provide general practice services and access to a range of other services for people in the community. This includes a walk-in clinic to see a doctor.

GP Plus Health Care Centres and GP Plus Super Clinics work closely with general practice and other services to better respond to the health needs of local communities. They complement the services offered by general practice, and help people take control of their own health care, stay healthy and to avoid unnecessary hospitalisation.

### Hospitals

SA Health provides eight modern hospitals across metropolitan Adelaide, delivering high quality health care to South Australians. Details of these hospitals are available on the SA Health website under [Metropolitan Hospitals](#).

There are hospitals and health services in rural South Australia who work to provide the best health care solutions available outside of metropolitan region. Details can be found by visiting SA Health website under [Country Hospitals](#) with search options to find services available in your local area/town.



# 5

## Emergency services

In life-threatening or urgent situations dial Triple Zero (**000**). This is the emergency number to contact police, fire, and ambulance.

### Ambulance

SA Ambulance Service is the primary provider of ambulance services in the state. It provides:

- ▶ emergency ambulance services
- ▶ emergency medical patient care, treatment and transport
- ▶ non-urgent patient care and transport.

Ambulance costs aren't covered by Medicare, and even if you have private health insurance, your policy may not cover the cost of an ambulance.

SA Ambulance Service offers ambulance cover state-wide, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Find out how to apply for ambulance cover on the SA Ambulance Service website or phone **1300 136 272**.

### Police

The purpose of SA Police (SAPOL) is to:

- ▶ uphold the law
- ▶ preserve the peace
- ▶ prevent crime
- ▶ assist the public in emergency situations
- ▶ coordinate and manage responses to emergencies
- ▶ regulate road use and prevent road accidents.

Find your local police station by visiting:

<https://www.police.sa.gov.au/about-us/find-your-local-police-station>

Police Assistance Line for non-urgent police assistance is **131 444**

Crime Stoppers line is **1800 333 000**

### Fire

The SA Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) is a fire and rescue service based within metropolitan Adelaide and 16 regional country centres of South Australia.

Learn more by visiting Metropolitan Fire Authority: [www.mfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.mfs.sa.gov.au)

### Country Fire Service

The SA Country Fire Service (CFS) is a volunteer-based fire and emergency service for outer-metropolitan, regional and rural communities of South Australia. The CFS is the primary provider of bushfire and grass fire firefighting services across the state. Learn more at: [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)

### State Emergency Service

The SA State Emergency Service (SES) is a volunteer-based, extreme weather and flood rescue service for South Australia. Learn more at: [www.ses.sa.gov.au](http://www.ses.sa.gov.au)

If you require SES assistance in an emergency phone **132 500** for help with:

- ▶ fallen branches or trees on a house or vehicle causing damage
- ▶ flooding
- ▶ storm damage.

### Other emergency and safety services

Learn more about services and organisations available for different types of emergency and personal safety situations by visiting: [www.sa.gov.au/topics/emergencies-and-safety](http://www.sa.gov.au/topics/emergencies-and-safety)

# 6

## Tax in Australia

You must pay tax to the Australian Government while you are living here. The Australian Tax Office (ATO) is responsible for the taxation of individuals and organisations in Australia. The ATO website has a wealth of information for you and also operates shopfronts across Australia for face-to-face interaction.

### Tax File Number

You will need to register with the Australian Tax Office (ATO) to obtain a tax file number (TFN) shortly after arriving in Australia. A TFN is a unique number issued to individuals or organisations for identification and record keeping purposes. It is necessary to claim government benefits, receive income from an employer and to be eligible for a tertiary education loan, among other things. The fastest way to get a TFN is online.

Online registration is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You will need your passport details and an Australian address. Application forms are also available from the ATO Publication Ordering Service or by phoning the tax file number Helpline on **13 28 61**. You should receive your TFN by mail within 28 days from the day the ATO receives your application.

You will need to provide your TFN to an employer when starting a new job. Be careful who you provide your TFN to as only certain organisations can legally request it.

Tax File Number registration: [www.ato.gov.au/individuals](http://www.ato.gov.au/individuals)

# 7

## Open a bank account

It is recommended that you open a bank account as soon as possible. Banking records may be useful as a reference when you are looking for rental accommodation, getting a mobile phone and more.

It is highly recommended that you contact different providers and compare their services and charges so that you can choose the one that best suits your needs. There are quite a few banking providers in South Australia with language support. Please note that it is possible to change banks at any time if their services no longer meet your needs.

It is advisable to open a bank account within six weeks of your arrival, as you usually need only your passport as identification. Please contact the bank for further details regarding the additional identification.

There are some banks in Adelaide that offer business migrant focused services and language support, please check with the bank branches if you need specific services.

Please note that the below banks are only a reference.

**Commonwealth bank**  
[www.commbank.com.au](http://www.commbank.com.au)

**NAB bank**  
[www.nab.com.au](http://www.nab.com.au)

**ANZ bank**  
[www.anz.com.au](http://www.anz.com.au)

**Bank SA**  
[www.banksa.com.au](http://www.banksa.com.au)

**Westpac bank**  
[www.westpac.com.au](http://www.westpac.com.au)

# 8

## Work rights and obligations

All workers in Australia have rights and are protected by law at work.

To find out about South Australian worker's rights please visit: [www.sa.gov.au/topics/work-and-skills/working-and-workers-rights/your-rights-at-work](http://www.sa.gov.au/topics/work-and-skills/working-and-workers-rights/your-rights-at-work)

You are protected by law against discrimination on a range of grounds including age, gender and race. If you think you're a victim of unlawful discrimination or sexual harassment, visit the Equal Opportunity Commission website: [www.eoc.sa.gov.au/about-equal-opportunity/employment/work](http://www.eoc.sa.gov.au/about-equal-opportunity/employment/work)

### Fair work

The Fair Work Commission can help resolve general disputes between workers and their employers. Further information is available at: [www.fwc.gov.au](http://www.fwc.gov.au)

The Fair Work Ombudsman can help you understand your rights, entitlements and responsibilities at work.

The Fair Work Ombudsman works with employees, employers and the community to educate and encourage compliance with Australia's workplace laws. They work with all parties to resolve workplace issues which may arise. These services are free to all workers and employers in Australia. Learn more here: [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au)

### Safe work

Find practical information and guidance on how to meet the requirements of work health and safety laws on the SafeWork SA website: <https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/resources/legislation#WHS>

If you have a question or concern about workplace safety, call the Safework SA Help Centre on **1300 365 255**.

Employers have a legal obligation to immediately inform SafeWork SA of any safety incident or dangerous occurrence in their workplace. If you have a problem at work that you can't resolve, assistance and support are available.

### Other assistance

If you feel physically threatened and need help, phone the police on **131 444**.

The South Australian (SA) Legal Services Commission provides free legal advice to anyone on most legal matters - phone **1300 366 424** or visit: [www.lsc.sa.gov.au](http://www.lsc.sa.gov.au)





# 9

## Employment and training

Generally, to start your job search in South Australia you will need to have a good resume and good contacts. It is strongly recommended that you build your networks to find employment opportunities. Jobs are usually found through word of mouth, job search websites, recruitment or employment agencies, and in local newspapers.

### Skilled & Business Migration

Skilled & Business Migration supports newly arrived skilled migrants to find a skilled job and to have their overseas qualifications assessed. To find out if you are eligible and to register for this service visit: <https://www.migration.sa.gov.au/support-and-resources/support-services/recognition-of-qualifications>

### Australian Government

Generally, if you are a permanent resident of Australia, you may be able to access income support while you are looking for a job, through Centrelink visit their website at: [www.humanservices.gov.au/centrelink](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/centrelink)

### Private employment and recruitment agencies and career advisers

There are many private employment and recruitment agencies in South Australia who find candidates for employers. While most cover most industries, some specialise in certain industries, for example, finance, information technology, engineering, or trades. Be aware that private employment/recruitment agencies are paid by employers, and as a jobseeker, you do not have to pay agencies at all and should never use any recruitment agency who asks you for any payment. To find local agencies, conduct a search for 'recruitment/employment agencies Adelaide'.

If you require intensive job preparation support, you should seek the services of private career practitioners who can assist you manage your career and find job opportunities. They usually charge a fee for their service, so make sure that before you solicit their business, you ask questions about their credentials and experience working with skilled migrants. For a list of support services visit:

- <https://possibleconsulting.com.au>
- <https://business-sa.com>
- <https://sonder.net.au/employment-support>
- <https://www.engineersaustralia.org.au>
- <https://communitycorporate.com.au/about-us>
- <https://www.hostint.org/about-us>
- <https://showcasesa.com.au>
- <https://www.ames.net.au>

# 10 Driving and transport

If you are visiting from overseas, or you've recently moved here permanently, make sure that you are driving legally and safely.

For all information relating to obtaining a driver's licence of driving with an overseas licence, registering a vehicle and insurance, please visit: [www.sa.gov.au/topics/driving-and-transport](http://www.sa.gov.au/topics/driving-and-transport)

Adelaide metro public transport information can be found at: <https://www.adelaidemetro.com.au/using-adelaide-metro/how-to-catch-a-bus-train-or-tram>

### Adelaide Metro InfoLine

Phone: **1300 311 108** (metropolitan customers)

Phone: **1800 182 160** (regional customers)

TTY: **8303 0844**

### Adelaide Railway Station InfoCentre

North Terrace, Adelaide

Monday to Sunday 7.00 am to 8.00 pm

Selected special event days 7.00 am to 12.15 am



# 11

## Childcare and education

In South Australia, there are a range of early childhood care options available to support working parents. There is a choice of government, private or community child care services including registered child care and early learning centres, family day care, out of school hours care, and kindergartens.

To search for a child care centre near you please visit: <https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-and-learning/early-childhood-education-and-care>

You may be eligible for financial assistance to help with the child care and education costs.

For more information please visit: <https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-and-learning/financial-help-scholarships-and-grants>

In some areas of Adelaide there is a high demand for child care, therefore you may experience limited availability. To maximise your chances of getting child care, we recommend that you register as soon as possible after arrival at a number of child care centres, as waiting lists may be very long.

In South Australia, it is compulsory for children to be in full-time schooling from the ages of 6 to 16, and students aged 16 must be in an approved learning program until they turn 17. You can choose to send your children to one of the three education systems in South Australia, government, independent or Catholic schools.

For further information on schooling options and how to enrol in school, please visit: [www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-and-learning/schools](http://www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-and-learning/schools)

Information about government schools visit the Department for Education website: [www.education.sa.gov.au](http://www.education.sa.gov.au)

Information on private schools in South Australia please visit: [www.privateschoolsguide.com/all-south-australia-private-schools](http://www.privateschoolsguide.com/all-south-australia-private-schools)

[www.ais.sa.edu.au](http://www.ais.sa.edu.au)

[www.cesa.catholic.edu.au](http://www.cesa.catholic.edu.au)

Information on how to enrol your children at school, and contribution fees that may apply, can be found by visiting the following websites:

[www.internationalstudents.sa.edu.au/en/students/dependants/](http://www.internationalstudents.sa.edu.au/en/students/dependants/)

[www.education.sa.gov.au/parents-and-families/enrol-school-or-preschool/families-457-or-482-visas/student-fees-subclass-457-and-482-visa-holders](http://www.education.sa.gov.au/parents-and-families/enrol-school-or-preschool/families-457-or-482-visas/student-fees-subclass-457-and-482-visa-holders)

# 12

## Visa related matters

For any visa related matters for you or your family please contact the Australian Government's Department of Home Affairs. [www.homeaffairs.gov.au](http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au) | Phone: **131 881**

### Using a migration agent

If you decide to get help with your migration application from a migration agent, please make sure that the agent is registered with the Migration Agents Registration Authority (MARA).

You can check if your chosen agent is registered on the MARA website: [www.mara.gov.au](http://www.mara.gov.au)





# Move to South Australia

## SKILLED + BUSINESS MIGRATION

## Contact

### Skilled & Business Migration

GPO Box 320  
Adelaide SA 5000

Online enquiries can be submitted through the  
Skilled & Business Migration Portal: [apply.migration.sa.gov.au](https://apply.migration.sa.gov.au)

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South Australia

[migration.sa.gov.au](https://migration.sa.gov.au)

