

HEALTH ASSESSMENT ON ARRIVAL IN AUSTRALIA

For humanitarian arrivals

Soon after you arrive in Australia, you will be offered an appointment with a Doctor (called a “GP”) and a nurse for a health assessment.

Even if you are not sick, it is important for you and your children to attend these Health Assessment appointments to check your health, get prescriptions for medicine and treatment if you need it. Your GP will also decide if you need to see a Specialist and organise a referral. This appointment is not mandatory but is recommended.



I already had my health checked for my visa, so why do I need a health assessment?

The previous medical check was related to your visa application and was not a general health and wellness check.

The health assessment includes different tests to check your health and connect you with other health services or recommended health screening programs (like dentist or optometrist). The health assessment links you with a GP that you can continue to see you for ongoing care.

What is a health assessment?

The health assessment is for each person who arrives in Australia, including children. It may **take up to one hour or more and you may need more than one appointment**. It may include the following:

- Questions about your health
- Physical check up
- Collecting blood, urine and poo samples
- Vaccinations.

A nurse and/or a GP may ask if experiences from the past are affecting how you feel and how you are settling into life in Australia. There are specialised services that can help you with this stress.

You have the right to ask questions about any tests, illnesses and treatment offered.

Why do I need vaccinations?

- It is the best and safest way to protect yourself, your children and the whole community.
- To enrol in school and childcare it is best if your child is fully vaccinated.
- To receive some Centrelink payments all of your children need to be fully vaccinated.



You must ensure all your children complete their vaccinations in the specified time period. The nurse at the clinic will tell you when the appointments are. If your child is completing their vaccinations, Centrelink may need a letter from their GP to state this so that your payments continue.

I already had some vaccinations so why do I need to have them again?

There are some vaccines given in Australia that you or your child may not have been offered before.

If you can provide a translated record of you and your child's vaccines, these can be entered into the Australian Immunisation Register by your GP and may not need to be repeated. You can get your records translated for free. It may take up to 30 days <https://translating.homeaffairs.gov.au/en/about-this-service/>

If you don't have a record of past vaccines you may need to have them again. This is safe and your nurse or GP can discuss this with you at your appointment.

What should I bring with me to my medical appointments (if you have them)?

- Medicare card or Medicare number
- Vaccination records and information about your medical history
- Australian Health Care Card

What happens after the health assessment appointment?

The nurse or GP may ask you to come back when the test results are ready. This is so that any treatment or referrals can be organised for you.

Does it cost to get a health assessment?

No, this health assessment is free.

But if you are referred to further tests such as X-rays or to see a Specialist, these appointments may not be fully covered by Medicare and you may have to pay a fee. Ask your GP for advice and check with the service if they "bulk bill" (this means no cost to you).

Will my health affect my visa?

No.

All information and health check results are private and confidential and will not be given to people who are not involved in your health care without your permission. Health workers are not allowed to discuss your medical problems with anyone, apart from other health care workers involved in your care. The information will not affect your residency status in Australia

What can I do if I don't speak or understand English?

If English is not your first language, an interpreter can help you to speak to and understand health care workers. Please ask the health service to book an interpreter or call the **Telephone Interpreter Service (TIS)** on **131 450**. The Interpreter service is free for your GP to use.



Translated Health Information www.healthtranslations.vic.gov.au