



On 24 March 2020 the Prime Minister of Australia announced the imposition of a travel ban for Australians. This changed the Australian Government's policy settings from a 'do not travel' advisory warning articulated on Smart Traveller to a ban using the *Biosecurity Act 2015* powers.

Under the Commonwealth *Biosecurity Act 2015*, Human Biosecurity Emergency provisions s477 and s478 the Minister for Health hereby direct that no Australian (citizen or permanent resident) may leave Australia by air or sea as of 1200hrs (at the place of departure) on 25 March 2020 except as set out below;

- a. Persons ordinarily resident in a country other than Australia.
- b. Persons whose travel is associated with essential work at offshore facilities.
- c. Persons engaged in the day to day conduct of outbound and inbound freight.
- d. Persons travelling on official Government business (including members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF))
- e. Airline and maritime crew and associated safety workers.
- f. Subject to the case-by-case approval of the Commissioner of the Australian Border Force (ABF):
  - i. Persons whose travel is as part of the response to the COVID-19 outbreak, including the provision of aid.
  - ii. Persons whose travel is essential for the conduct of critical industries and business (including export and import industries)
  - iii. Persons who are travelling to receive urgent medical treatment that is not available in Australia.
  - iv. Persons who are travelling on urgent and unavoidable personal business.
  - v. On compassionate or humanitarian grounds.
  - vi. Where the travel is in the national interest.
  - vii. A compelling reason that demonstrates exceptional circumstances.

Travelers who believe they meet one of the above case-by-case exemptions can apply to the Commissioner of the ABF through the following hyperlink

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/departmental-forms/online-forms/covid19-enquiry-form>  
Or email, [issg.crisis.management@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:issg.crisis.management@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Anyone leaving Australia should be aware that countries are implementing their own border restrictions in response to COVID-19 and the international air network is reducing in capacity – Your ability to enter another country or return to Australia may be severely impacted. All travels restrictions including those for entering Australia are under constant review by the Australian Government and may be subject to change at short notice.