Welcome to Queensland

Great state. Great opportunity.
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Brisbane, Queensland’s capital.
Queensland is a great place to work, live and play.

When you received your Australian visa, you may have been provided with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection booklet, *Beginning a Life in Australia* which is produced for all prospective and newly arrived migrants to Australia. The booklet is also published online. Now that you are in Queensland, we would like to provide you with some more general information about the State to help you get settled in both your personal and professional life here.

Congratulations on choosing Queensland!

Known as the Sunshine State, Queensland is abound with natural attractions including pristine beaches and lush, tropical rainforests. The state is also rich in culture, providing a diverse mix of nationalities and an eclectic mix of arts, cultural, community and sporting events.
About Queensland

Founded in June 1859, the State gained its namesake in honour of England’s Queen Victoria. It is the second largest geographical mass in Australia and the third most populous state. Brisbane is the capital city, located in Queensland’s South-East corner. Queensland’s economy is primarily based on agriculture and mining, and more recently the state has developed burgeoning tourism, construction and education industries.

The State’s agricultural industry includes fruit and vegetable crops such as bananas and pineapples, beef cattle and sugar, grains and cotton. Queensland’s mining industry includes mineral extraction of coal, bauxite, silver, lead, gold, zinc and copper, and more recently Queensland has been establishing its coal seam gas industry. In tourism, visitors to the State experience attractions such as the world heritage listed Great Barrier Reef, its world-renowned beach strips such as the Gold and Sunshine Coast, and the state’s vast outback region. Queensland is also home to a leading academic community and is a regular host of international students who call Queensland home as they study a range of disciplines.

There is significant variation in the State’s climate due to its large size. More generally, Queensland has become known as the Sunshine State due to its vast amount of annual sunshine and popular outdoor lifestyle. In the northern regions, residents typically experience a monsoonal wet season during summer with warm temperate conditions along the coastline, and warm dry winters. South East Queensland’s weather usually includes warm humid summers and mild and dry winters.

The western regions are typically hot and dry during the summer months, with the north western regions experiencing a mild dry winter, and the state’s south western region experiencing a typically cold and dry winter.
Emergency services

It is important to be aware that if you are in an emergency in Queensland, or anywhere in Australia, you should telephone 000 for:

› Police
› Ambulance
› Fire brigade

Calls to 000 (triple zero) are free. Be prepared to say your name, where you are, the telephone number you are calling from and the type of service you need. If you cannot speak English, first tell the operator what kind of help you need – say “Police”, “Ambulance” or “Fire” – and then say your language. You will be connected to an interpreter, so do not hang up. The interpreter will then help you talk to the police, ambulance or fire service.

If you are using a home telephone, the emergency services can find your location automatically while the phone is being used, so stay on the phone. More information is available about the 000 (triple zero) service (including languages other than English).
Road safety, rules, fines and tolls

Australians drive on the left side of the road. All drivers must follow road rules, drive a registered and insured vehicle and carry their driver’s licence with them at all times.

Some Australian road rules may be different from those in your home country. Queensland police actively enforce laws which prohibit driving if you have been drinking alcohol or talking on a hand-held mobile phone. Driving above the speed limit is also illegal as is hitchhiking or picking up hitchhikers in your vehicle.

For your safety make sure you plan your trips well, take supplies that you may need with you, rest frequently and leave yourself lots of time to get to your destination.

Make sure you know about road safety, fines and tolls, in Queensland and follow the road rules at all times.
In Queensland, you must carry your licence with you when you are driving and show it to a police officer if asked. However, if you hold an open-class licence and are driving a vehicle or riding a motorbike, you may be given 48 hours to present your licence at a police station.

Your licence has information about you, which vehicles you can drive and the conditions you must follow while driving.

The Queensland Transport website provides all the important information you need to know about Queensland licences or using a non-Queensland driver’s licence to drive in Queensland.
Registration

All motor vehicles driven on Queensland roads must be registered. There is a range of registration information online, including registering a vehicle, registration costs and how to pay them.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads is responsible for registration and licensing in Queensland and offer online services for licensing and registration including payment facilities, change of details such as name and address and practising the road rules test.
Transport

Queensland offers both large modern, cosmopolitan cities and laid-back regional towns across a stunning and diverse landscape that includes national parks, rainforests, coral reefs and some of the world's most beautiful beaches.

Getting around Queensland is easy and trouble free. Our comprehensive transport network and motorway system will enable you to explore Queensland and its attractions with ease. Most of South East Queensland is serviced by buses, trains and ferries on the Translink network.

Visit the Translink website for timetables, maps, and other useful information for planning your travel around South East Queensland. The Queensland Government's Q-Connect initiative provides public transport services that connects regional towns throughout Queensland.

Find out more about public transport including fares, access for mobility impaired, taxis and school transport. For longer distance, Queensland caters well to travellers, with a choice of international and domestic airports located throughout the State. International airports are located in Brisbane, Cairns and the Gold Coast.

For more information about air travel to, and around, Queensland including maps and travel times, you can visit the Queensland Holidays website.
Childcare and education

In Queensland, early childhood education and care services deliver educational programs and child care for children from birth to 12 years old.

You can use this search facility to find your nearest approved kindergarten program or a childcare provider of your choice (e.g. long day care, family day care, school age care, limited hours care, etc).

If you have school age children and need to enrol them in school in Queensland you can find a school that suits you and your child by searching the schools directory. In Queensland, schooling from year 1 is compulsory. The Prep Year program is available to children in the year before they start primary school and is not compulsory.

If you have older children or family members who are interested in doing additional study or learning English, you can find out more about the universities, TAFE, vocational education and training and other education facilities in Queensland.
Health and wellbeing

Staying healthy is more than just being physically fit. It involves leading a balanced lifestyle that makes you happy. A big part of staying healthy involves eating healthy foods and exercising for both fitness and relaxation.

High quality medical and health services are available throughout Queensland and a great deal of information is available on the range of services in the State including hospitals, health insurance, children’s health and staying healthy.
When you first arrive in Queensland and once you settle, you might be interested in getting in touch with some of the local community groups. Community groups help people get together for a common purpose or to share an interest. The group may provide support for group members, or for others in their local community. There are all kinds of community groups in Queensland, including multicultural, sport and recreation and many more.

Cultural Diversity Queensland publishes the Queensland Multicultural Resource Directory which provides a comprehensive listing of more than 1500 key organisations with an ethnic community focus in Queensland including:

- ethnic media outlets and schools
- community, non-government and government organisations and agencies
- Consuls
- migrant service organisations
- bilateral business associations
- interstate multicultural offices.

You can search the directory online or download the directory to find groups that may be of interest to you.
Buying/renting a home

Buying a home in Queensland may differ from the ways in which you could purchase property in your home country. It might be useful to research buying a home in Queensland so you understand what to do before you buy, how to appoint an agent, get finance, select a suitable home, make an offer, manage the sale and settlement and pay off your mortgage.

If you are interested in finding a place to rent in Queensland there is information available about choosing rental accommodation that's right for you and your family, as well as what to do when applying for a rental property.
Recreational areas and facilities, sports, arts, events, school holiday activities

There is so much to see and do in Queensland and with the great weather and lifestyle, there is plenty of opportunity to get involved in recreational activities, sporting events, enjoy the arts and participate in school holiday activities. You can find out about all these activities [here](#).
Climate and weather

The Bureau of Meteorology website provides access to weather forecasts, severe weather warnings, observations, flood information, marine and high seas forecasts and climate information. Products include weather charts, satellite photos, radar pictures and climate maps.

The Bureau also has responsibility for compiling and providing comprehensive water information across Australia. You can also find out more about the climate and weather in Queensland including storm warning information.
Business and Skilled Migration Queensland supported you in your application for nomination when you applied for your visa and has developed this brochure to assist you in your settlement process in Queensland.

Should you require more information or if you would like to provide comments or suggestions about this ‘Welcome to Queensland’ brochure you can email Business and Skilled Migration Queensland or phone them on +61 7 3514 3013.

Alternatively, you can contact Business and Skilled Migration Queensland at:

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