

registration update

for pilgrims

MARCH NEWSLETTER

Australian Working Holiday Program

Australia's Working Holiday program encourages cultural exchange and closer ties between arrangement countries by allowing young people to have an extended holiday supplemented by short-term employment, and to experience closer contact with the local community.

You may like to consider staying on after WYD08 and working for the Australian Catholic Church. You should do your internet research now and contact relevant Catholic Church agencies. A good website to try is www.catholicjobsonline.com.au.

Australia has reciprocal working holiday arrangements with Belgium, Canada, Republic of Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Taiwan, United Kingdom and the United States.

Basic requirements

To be eligible, applicants need to meet the following requirements:

- Hold a passport issued by an eligible country or region;
- Be aged between 18 and 30 (inclusive) at the time of applying;
- Not have dependent children;
- Meet health, character and financial requirements;
- Not have previously entered Australia on a Working Holiday visa (unless applying for a Second Working Holiday visa);
- Be outside Australia when applying (and when the visa is granted);
- Apply within 12 months of intended travel to Australia.



What does the Working Holiday visa allow?

Applicants who are granted a visa can:

- Enter Australia within 12 months of the visa being granted (if applying outside Australia);
- Stay in Australia for up to 12 months from when they first enter Australia (a further 12 months' stay is possible if applicants qualify for a second Working Holiday visa);
- Leave and re-enter Australia any number of times while the visa is valid;
- Work in Australia for up to six months with each employer;
- Study for up to four months.

How to apply

Working Holiday visa applications can be made online (except for British National Overseas and Cyprus passport holders) or by filling out an application form. Online applications are generally processed faster than paper applications.

[Click here](#) for further information on the application process and to access the electronic and paper application forms.

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Some special information relating to the new Australia-US Work & Holiday visa

- A new Australian Work and Holiday visa arrangement with the USA began on 31 October 2007.
- Australia is the first country with which the United States has entered into a Work and Holiday visa arrangement
- This is a reciprocal visa arrangement; however entry requirements and visa conditions vary according to each country's regulations.
- The Work and Holiday visa allows a stay of up to 12 months in both Australia and the USA. USA citizens can have only one Work and Holiday visa, however they can apply for most other visas without leaving the country.
- To be eligible for the visa, US citizens must:
 - Be aged 18-30 (inclusive);
 - Be outside of Australia when applying and when the visa is granted;
 - Show evidence of enrollment in a course or study at an accredited post secondary institution, or of holding qualifications from a post secondary institution;
 - Hold a return ticket or sufficient funds for a return or onward fare, as well as sufficient funds for the first part of their stay;
 - Meet health and character requirements.
- USA citizens holding a Work and Holiday visa in Australia can work for each employer for up to six months and are able to work for the entire 12 months of the visa. There are no restrictions on the type of work that may be undertaken.



- USA citizens holding a Work and Holiday visa in Australia can study for up to four months; there is no restriction on the type of study.

[Click here](#) for further information on Australia-US Work and Holiday visas or alternatively, go to: www.exchanges.state.gov

PRAYER FOCUS

In March, we ask you to intercede for pilgrims worldwide who are spiritually, physically and financially preparing to come to WYD08. We pray that the Lord may provide for all their needs

and prepare their hearts, through the power of the Holy Spirit, for the many gifts and blessings on this pilgrim journey.

A Pilgrim's Prayer

O Virgin Mary,
you are the help of Christians.
Throughout our journey of life
we dedicate ourselves to you
and to the service of Jesus your Son.
We offer our minds, hearts, and bodies
to work for the glory of God
and the salvation of all people.

We pray for the Church throughout the world.
Protect the young and help the aged,
save sinners and console the dying.
You are our joy and our hope, Mary,
Mother of Mercy and Gate of Heaven.

We come to you in confidence.
We seek to be filled with deep faith,
trustful hope, and selfless charity.
We ask for the grace we need
and the guidance of the Holy Spirit
during our journey of life
and our pilgrimage to heaven.

We make this prayer
through Christ your Son and our Lord.

Amen.

For more on the WYD08 Prayer Campaign,
[click here](#)

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REMINDER FOR ALL REGISTERED PILGRIMS

A checklist for all registered pilgrims:

1. Check Your Personal Details

Please **check your personal details** and ensure they are correct.

It is important that we have individual email addresses for every member of your group – please ensure that these are added wherever possible.

This information is used by the WYD08 office to communicate important news and information and may also be used by the immigration department.



2. Join A Group

If you have not already, **please join a group**. We are encouraging all pilgrims to join a group to make the most out of their

WYD08 experience and it will also assist you to plan spiritually and practically for WYD08.

If you don't have a group to join, please contact your local Catholic diocese or Bishops office for assistance. The best way to come to WYD08 is part of a group but if you don't have a group to join and would prefer to register as an individual please re-register as a group leader, create your own group and join your group.

Please then let email the registration team to delete your pilgrim registration and ensure you're not registered twice.

3. Pay For Your Registration Package

Please **pay for your registration package as soon as possible**. For international pilgrims, this can be done by credit card. A wire transfer option will be introduced in the next week or so.

Australian pilgrims may also use Bpay or direct transfers from Australian banks and credit unions.

As an international pilgrim you are able to **apply for your visas** prior to paying for your packages. To apply for your visa, you need to complete your individual details in Egeria –including passport information and nationality.

This will be passed directly to the Australian Immigration department for processing. Please ensure that your details are correct when completing this page. Those who require paper applications (non-ETA countries) need to complete the paperwork and send to the nearest Australian Immigration office.

Details of the Immigration offices and application process are on the Egeria Visa page in the [Hand Book](#).

Please carefully follow the Visa instructions on Egeria to ensure you follow the correct process. A Bishops endorsement letter is required for paper Visa applications – (non ETA countries) and you should request this from your local Catholic Bishop.



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[Click here](#) for more information about WYD08 visas please visit the immigration website

PRE-ARRIVAL HEALTH TIP #4

Travelling with prescription medications

If you need to bring prescription medications into Australia during your WYD08 visit, it is important to be a responsible traveller.

A few helpful suggestions:

- Your prescription medication must be in its dispensed form. This means using the original container with a pharmacy label including your name and directions for use (if this is not in English you should bring a translation as well). Over the counter medications should also remain in the original packaging.
- You should check with your airline about any restrictions on the amount of prescription medication allowed in the cabin of the airplane.
- Bring a letter from your doctor addressing any prescription medications you need to travel with.
- Travel with a supplementary amount of your prescription medication in case your trip is unexpectedly delayed.
- If you require a medication refill while in Australia, you may need to see a doctor for a new prescription. The identical medication to the one you use at home may not be available. For more information on other health matters see <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/>