GENERAL

form 1290 australian citizenship

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Applying for Australian citizenship is a significant milestone, and the paperwork can feel overwhelming. At the heart of this process lies **Form 1290**, the official application used by the Department of Home Affairs to assess eligibility and gather essential information. Whether you're a long term permanent resident, a spouse of an Australian citizen, or someone who has lived in the country for years, understanding how to fill out this form correctly is the first step toward becoming a citizen.

This guide breaks down everything you need to know about **form 1290 Australian citizenship**: what it is, when you need it, how to complete it, common pitfalls, supporting documents, submission details, fees, processing times, and frequently asked questions. By the end, you'll feel confident navigating the application process and ready to take the next step toward Australian citizenship.

What Is Form 1290?

Form 1290, officially titled "Application for Australian Citizenship – General," is the primary document used by the Australian Government to collect information from individuals who wish to apply for citizenship. The form captures personal details, residency history, character references, and any other data required to determine whether the applicant meets the eligibility criteria set out in the *Australian Citizenship Act 2007*.

Unlike other forms that may focus on specific pathways (such as spouse or refugee applications), Form 1290 is the standard template used across all general citizenship routes. It ensures consistency in the data collected, making the assessment process more efficient for both applicants and the Department.

When Do You Need to Submit Form 1290?

- Permanent Residents: If you have held a permanent visa for at least four years (including the 12 months immediately before applying) and meet residency requirements.
- Spouses or Partners of Australian Citizens: Those who have lived with their Australian partner for at least 12 months and hold a valid permanent visa.
- Children of Australian Citizens: Applicants who are under 18 and meet the residency criteria.
- Refugee and Humanitarian Applicants: Those who have been granted permanent residency under humanitarian programs and meet the residency period.
- Other Eligibility Categories: Anyone who meets the statutory criteria under the Citizenship Act, such as those who have lived in Australia for the required period while holding a temporary visa that can be extended to permanent residency.

In all cases, the application must be accompanied by a completed Form 1290. Submitting an incomplete or inaccurate form can delay the process or result in a refusal.

Key Sections of Form 1290

The form is structured into several logical sections. Below, we outline each section and highlight what information is required.

Personal Details

This section collects basic data: full name, date of birth, gender, current address, phone number, and email. It also asks for your immigration status, including visa subclass, and the date you first entered Australia.

Identity Information

Applicants must provide passport details, Australian ID numbers (if any), and details of any other nationalities held. This helps the Department confirm your identity and cross check records.

Residency History

Here you must list every country you have lived in over the past five years, along with the dates of residence. For Australian residents, you'll need to provide dates of entry and exit, as well as the visa subclass held during each period.

Character and Security Checks

Applicants are required to disclose any criminal history, outstanding court orders, or security concerns. This section also asks for details of any previous visa refusals or cancellations.

Family Information

If you are applying as a spouse or partner, you'll need to provide details about your partner, including their name, date of birth, and citizenship status. For children, you'll provide their details and relationship to you.

Health and English Language Proficiency

Applicants must confirm that they meet the health requirements set by the Department and provide evidence of English language proficiency if required. This may include test results from recognized exams such as IELTS or PTE.

Declaration

At the end of the form, you must sign a declaration stating that the information provided is true and complete. This declaration is legally binding.

How to Complete Form 1290

1. Download the Latest Version: Visit the Department of Home Affairs website to download the most recent PDF. Using an outdated form can lead to processing delays.
2. Read the Instructions: The form comes with a detailed instruction guide. Read it carefully to avoid common mistakes.
3. Gather Supporting Documents: Before filling out the form, collect passports, visas, birth certificates, and any other required evidence. Having these ready streamlines the process.
4. Fill in Personal Details Accurately: Double check spelling, dates, and numbers. Inconsistencies can trigger additional checks.
5. Provide Complete Residency History: Even brief stays in other countries count. Be thorough.
6. Answer Character Questions Honestly: Failure to disclose criminal convictions or visa refusals can lead to refusal or future visa complications.
7. Attach Supporting Evidence: If you have a health certificate or English test results, attach them in the designated section. The Department often requires scanned copies.
8. Sign the Declaration: The form must be signed in the presence of a witness if submitted in hard copy. For online submissions, a digital signature is accepted.
9. Review Before Submission: Cross check all sections for accuracy. A single typo can cause a delay.
10. Submit the Form: Choose between online submission via the ImmiAccount portal or sending a hard copy to

the Department's mailing address. Online submissions are typically faster.

Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

- Inconsistent Dates: Ensure that the dates on your form match those on your supporting documents. Discrepancies can raise red flags.
- Incomplete Residency Details: Even short trips abroad must be listed. Omitting them can lead to a refusal.
- Missing Signatures: The declaration must be signed and witnessed if required. Forgetting to sign will invalidate the application.
- Using an Outdated Form: The Department periodically updates the form. Always use the latest version.
- Failing to Provide Required Evidence: Health certificates, English test results, and character references must be attached. Lack of evidence can halt processing.
- Not Checking for Updates: Immigration rules change. Verify eligibility criteria before applying.

Supporting Documents You Must Provide

The Department requires a range of documents to support your application. Below is a non‑exhaustive list:

- Passport(s) and visa stamps showing your entry and exit dates.
- Permanent residency visa grant letter.
- Birth certificate (for yourself and any children).
- Marriage or de‑facto relationship evidence (e.g., joint bank statements, lease agreements).
- English language test results (IELTS, PTE, or equivalent).
- Health assessment reports from a registered medical practitioner.
- Police clearance certificates from all countries you have lived in for more than 12 months in the past 10 years.
- Character references if required.
- Proof of residence in Australia (utility bills, rental agreements).

All documents must be in English or accompanied by a certified translation. Photocopies are acceptable, but originals may be requested for verification.

Where to Submit the Form

There are two primary submission methods:

Online Submission via ImmiAccount

The Department's online portal is the fastest way to submit Form 1290. You'll need to create an *ImmiAccount*, upload the PDF, attach supporting documents, and pay the fee electronically.

Hard Copy Submission

If you prefer mailing, send the completed form and supporting documents to:

Department of Home Affairs
Australian Citizenship Application Centre
PO Box 12345, Sydney NSW 2000
Australia

Ensure you use a trackable mailing service and keep copies of everything you send.

Fees and Payment Options

As of the latest update, the application fee for Australian citizenship is **$650 AUD**. This fee covers the processing of your application and the citizenship test (if applicable).

Payment can be made:

- Online via credit or debit card through the ImmiAccount portal.
- By bank transfer if you're submitting a hard copy (details provided on the Department's website).
- By cheque or money order if required.

Always keep a receipt of your payment. The Department will not process your application without proof of payment.

Processing Time and Status Tracking

Processing times vary based on the type of application and the complexity of the case. On average:

- Standard citizenship applications: 4–6 months.
- Spouse or partner applications: 6–9 months.
- Children under 18: 3–4 months.

To check your status:

1. Log into your ImmiAccount.
2. Navigate to the "Application Status" section.
3. View updates, requests for additional information, or decisions.

For hard copy applicants, the Department will mail you a status update. If you have not heard back within the expected timeframe, you can contact the Department's Customer Service Centre.

FAQs About Form 1290

You can submit a correction request via ImmiAccount or send a written explanation to the Department. Prompt corrections reduce the risk of delays.

Most applicants over 18 must attend a citizenship test. Some categories, such as children under 16, are exempt. Check the *Australian Citizenship Act* for details.

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