Residency Status for children born in Australia

Whether a child is an Australian citizen by birth depends on the date of birth. A birth certificate issued in Australia does not automatically indicate Australian citizenship or permanent residency.

Children born in Australia after 20 August 1986:

- Are not automatically granted Australian citizenship.
- In order to be an Australian citizen, at least one parent must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia at the time of the child’s birth.
- If neither parent is an Australian citizen or a permanent resident of Australia at the time of birth, the child is a temporary resident. The child will hold the same visa subclass as the parent’s temporary resident visa.
- The child may become an Australian citizen on their 10th birthday if ordinarily resident in Australia for those 10 years.

What the school may ask the parent:

For children born in Australia, the school should ask for evidence of residency if the child does not have an Australian passport or permanent resident visa, or where neither parent is an Australian citizen or permanent resident.

Although a birth certificate will not provide details of the residency status for the child or the parent, it will indicate the parent’s place of birth. If the place of birth for the parent is not Australia, this may indicate the parent is not an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia. The school should then request evidence of the parent’s residency status.

These documents are NOT evidence of residency status:

The documents listed below are available to Australian Citizens, Permanent Residents and Temporary Residents. Therefore, they are not indicators of residency status.

- Birth Certificate
- Medicare Card
- Driver’s Licence from an Australian State or Territory
- Immunisation Blue Book

Need more Information:

The Residency Quick Reference Guide on the next page will assist in determining a child’s residency status.

In addition, the Proof of Identity and Residency Status document provides details of travel documents and proof of identity required of non-Australian citizens. It also provides information on regulations governing Australian citizenship and official evidence of Australian citizenship. The Proof of Identity and Residency Status document is available on the DoE intranet and the Temporary Residents Program website.

A parent may obtain a Certificate of Evidence of Resident Status (CERS) for their child by contacting the Department of Immigration & Border Protection.
Guide for Identification and Enrolment Procedures for Temporary Residents

When the prospective student arrives at your school for a pre enrolment interview, the parent must provide passport and visa documentation of the student. A student’s visa details may be printed in the back of the passport, may be in the form of a letter from the Department of Immigration & Border Protection or may be issued electronically. In the case of an electronic visa, the parent must provide a printed copy of the visa to the school. Using the passport and visa details, school staff can determine the appropriate enrolment procedures for any student using the Quick Reference Guide below.

For more information on identifying citizenship status, please refer to the Proof of Identity and Residency Status policy document.
For more information on temporary resident enrolment process, please refer to the Enrolment of Non-Australian Citizens policy document.

Start Here

Does the student hold an Australian Passport, Australian Citizenship papers, Norfolk Island Citizenship papers or a New Zealand Passport?

Yes

Proceed to enrol the student as an Australian Resident.
If you are unsure, please call 1300 300 229

No

Does the student hold a Permanent Resident Visa of Australia? The Visa Subclass Schedule lists all permanent residency visa subclasses.

Yes

Proceed to enrol the student as an Australian Resident.
If you are unsure, please call 1300 300 229

No

Was the student born in Australia?

Yes

Did the mother or father on the student’s birth certificate hold an Australian Passport, Australian Citizenship or Permanent Resident Visa of Australia as at the date of birth?

Yes

Proceed to enrol the student as an Australian Resident.
If you are unsure, please call 1300 300 229

No

No

No

The student is a Temporary Resident

- The student will have a 3 digit visa subclass number listed on their visa documentation.
- If visa subclass number is 571 or 500P contact International Students Program on 1300 300 229 (then option 2) to discuss enrolment of this student.
- All other visa subclass numbers are administered by the Temporary Residents Program. Call us on 1300 300 229 (then option 1) for any assistance.
- Temporary resident students cannot commence attendance in school until an ‘Authority to Enrol’ document is issued to your school.
- The Visa Subclass Schedule will clarify if the student will need to apply to the Temporary Residents Program for an ‘Authority to Enrol’.
- The Visa Subclass Schedule is available on our website or on request by contacting the Temporary Residents Program by telephone or email.
- The Temporary Residents Program Application Form and specific enrolment instructions are also available on our website or by request to our office.

Temporary Residents Program Telephone on 1300 300 229 Email at tempvisa@det.nsw.edu.au Website at www.internationalschool.edu.au/trp