Children born in Australia after 20 August 1986
Children born in Australia, with a birth certificate issued in Australia, are not automatically Australian citizens or Australian permanent residents.

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 permanent resident of Australia at the time of birth, the child is a temporary resident. The child will hold the same temporary resident visa subclass as the parent.

The child may become an Australian citizen on their tenth birthday if they are ordinarily a resident in Australia for those ten years. In these cases, the family should contact the Department of Home Affairs for evidence of Australian citizenship.

What the school may ask the parent
The school should check the residency status of each child. If the child was born in Australia and holds an Australian birth certificate, but does not have an Australian passport or a permanent resident visa, or where neither parent is an Australian citizen or permanent resident, the school should ask the parent for more information.

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

The school should request evidence of residency status for the parent and child. A parent may then provide a copy of their temporary resident visa or obtain a Certificate of Evidence of Resident Status by contacting the Department of Home Affairs.

These documents are not evidence of residency status
The documents listed below are not evidence of residency status. They are available to Australian citizens, permanent residents and temporary residents:

- birth certificate
- Medicare card
- driver’s licence from an Australian state or territory
- immunisation blue book

Need more information
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 Department of Education intranet and the Temporary Residents Program website.

The reference guide on page 2 will assist to determine residency status for a child, or call our Customer Service Team on 1300 300 229 (then option 1) for more information.
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 for the student. A student’s visa details may be printed may be in the form of a letter from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection or a printout from VEVO. Using the passport and visa details, school staff can determine the appropriate enrolment procedure 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 (then select option 1)

No

Does the student hold a permanent resident visa of Australia? The Visa subclasses fact sheet 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 (then select option 1)

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 (then select option 1)

No

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 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 assistance.
- Temporary resident students can not commence attendance in school until an Authority to Enrol document is issued to your school.
- The Visa subclasses fact sheet explains if the student needs to apply to the Temporary Residents Program for an Authority to Enrol.
- The Visa subclasses fact sheet 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.deinternational.nsw.edu.au/trp