Fact sheet: How to identify temporary residents, permanent residents and Australian citizens

Contents

This document provides information on how schools can broadly establish the residency status of temporary residents, permanent residents and Australian citizens. Topics include:

- Passport identity documents
- Titre de Voyage (Convention Travel Document)
- ImmiCard identity document
- Australian Citizenship certificate
- Children born in Australia and their residency status
- Children with no valid visa

Introduction

Children applying to enrol in NSW government schools must provide documentation to confirm their identity and the right to reside in Australia. Identity documents may include a Passport, ImmiCard, Titre de Voyage (Convention Travel Document), Citizenship Certificate, or Birth Certificate.

Types of identity documents

Passport (overseas country)

Identity documents of non-citizens applying to enrol in NSW government schools will usually include a passport from an overseas country. Where a child holds a passport issued by an overseas country, the parent must provide evidence of the visa issued by the Department of Home Affairs. The conditions of enrolment in NSW government schools for students holding a temporary visa vary depending on the type of visa held. For more information, refer to the Visa subclasses and enrolment conditions.

Passport (Aotearoa / New Zealand)

A New Zealand passport identifies the holder as a New Zealand citizen. Where a child holds a New Zealand passport, the parent must provide evidence of the visa issued by the Department of Home Affairs. New Zealand passport holders generally hold a Special Category visa (subclass 444). The conditions of enrolment in NSW government schools for students holding a temporary visa vary depending on the type of visa held. For more information, refer to the Visa subclasses and enrolment conditions.

Passport (Australian passport)

An Australian passport identifies the holder as an Australian citizen.



Titre de Voyage (Convention Travel Document)
The Australian Government may issue travel documents to non-citizens who are refugees or stateless people. The Titre de Voyage does not confer Australian citizenship. It is to facilitate overseas travel for people who have no travel document. Where a child holds a Titre de Voyage, the parent must provide evidence of the visa issued by the Department of Home Affairs. The conditions of enrolment in NSW government schools for students holding a temporary visa vary depending on the type of visa held. For more information, refer to the Visa subclasses and enrolment conditions.



ImmiCard
An ImmiCard is issued to certain visa holders who don't have and can't obtain a passport recognised by the Australian Government. The ImmiCard provides an individual with evidence of identity in Australia. ImmiCards are official, secure immigration credentials that contain a photograph and personal details such as surname, given names, date of birth and gender.

Where a child holds a ImmiCard, the parent must provide evidence of the visa issued by the Department of Home Affairs. The conditions of enrolment in NSW government schools for students holding a temporary visa vary depending on the type of visa held. For more information, refer to the Visa subclasses and enrolment conditions.

Evidence of Immigration Status ImmiCard
The Evidence of Immigration Status ImmiCard is issued to Illegal Maritime Arrivals who have generally been granted a temporary visa (subclass 050, 051, 070, 449, 785, 786 or 790) that allows the holder to remain in the community until their immigration status is resolved.

Australian Migration Status ImmiCard
The Australian Migration Status ImmiCard is issued to Refugee and Special Humanitarian Program visa holders, who do not have a passport recognised by the Australian Government.





Australian Citizenship Certificate
An Australian Citizenship Certificate identifies the holder as an Australian citizen.



Birth certificate and residency status of children born in Australia
A child born in Australia is not automatically an Australian citizen. 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 and the child will hold the same temporary visa subclass as the parent. Where a child is a temporary resident, the parent must provide evidence of the visa issued by the Department of Home Affairs. The conditions of enrolment in NSW government schools for students holding a temporary visa vary depending on the type of visa held. For more information, refer to the Visa subclasses and enrolment conditions.

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 but does not have an Australian passport or 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.

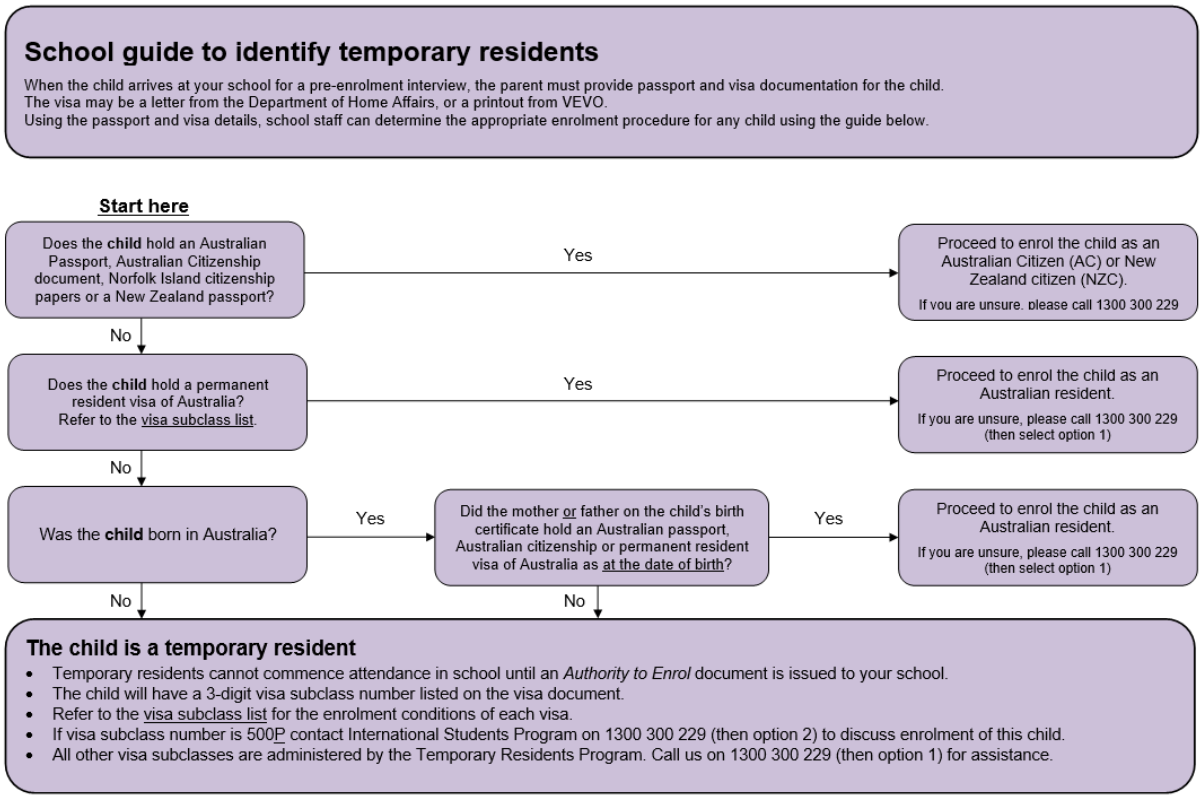
The school should request evidence of residency status for the parent and child. A parent may then provide a copy of their temporary resident visa or obtain evidence of resident status by contacting the Department of Home Affairs.

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

School guide to identify temporary residents

The chart below can be used as a guide to identify the enrolment path for new students.



No valid visa

Temporary residents must have a valid visa to stay in Australia. It is unlawful to stay in Australia without a valid visa. If a parent is unable to provide a valid visa for their child to reside in Australia, they must contact the Community Status Resolution Service on 1300 853 773, or visit the Department of Home Affairs website at https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/visa-about-to-expire.

Need more information

To find out more about the Temporary Residents Program, please visit deinternational.nsw.edu.au/trp or call our Customer Service Team on 1300 300 229 (then option 1).