



# THE FIRST 60 DAYS



INFORMATION BOOKLET FOR SKILLED MIGRANTS



An Australian Government Initiative

## The First 60 Days

This booklet has been prepared to help migrants moving to Central West NSW in their transition and assimilation into the area. It focusses on the important things you may need to know and do in the first 60 days of arriving in Australia.

Settling in a new country is a big decision, leaving behind friends and relatives and navigating new and different challenges. Every regional city and town is different. They offer different job opportunities, have differing climates and lifestyles.

This booklet provides links to important information as a starting point to accessing services in the Central West.

## Central West NSW

The Central West region of NSW is renowned for its food and wine and excellent agricultural produce. The region covers an area of 63,000 square kilometres and is home to over 179,000 people within the 11 local government areas (LGAs) of Bathurst, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Lachlan, Lithgow, Oberon, Orange, Parkes and Weddin.

Orange, Bathurst and Parkes are the largest cities within the region.



## What to do after you arrive in Australia

Here is a list of important things for you to know and do as soon as possible after arriving in Australia.

### Emergency Services

The Triple Zero (000) telephone service is the quickest way to get through to the right emergency service to help you. It should be used to contact Police, Fire or Ambulance services in life threatening or emergency situations.

### Travel to the Central West

The Central West region is well serviced by major highways, regional rail networks and regional airports. It is a 3-4 hour drive by car from Sydney to the major towns of Bathurst and Orange.

#### *Travelling by car*

The towns of Lithgow, Bathurst and Orange are north-west of Sydney via the scenic Blue Mountains using the Great Western Highway (A32), the Mitchell Highway (A32) or Bells Line of Road (B59).

The Newell Highway (A39) is the major arterial road linking Melbourne and Brisbane and runs through Parkes and Forbes near the midway point. Parkes and Forbes are also easily accessible from Sydney via the Great Western Highway, Bells Line of Road or the Hume Highway (M31).

Cowra and Condobolin are easily reached via the Great Western Highway, Mid Western Highway (A41) or the Hume Highway.

Driving time from Sydney is between 2-6 hours depending on your destination. Some of the roads mentioned above are toll roads that you need to pay to travel on.

#### *Public transport and taxi services*

Information on the train and bus services that link Sydney to the Central West can be found at <https://transportnsw.info>. You will need to book your seat in advance.

In addition, there are some private coach lines that operate an express service between Sydney, Lithgow, Bathurst and Orange. One of these is <https://www.austwidecoaches.com.au/express>.

Taxi service contact details vary and can be found on the internet.

#### *By Air*

The Central West has three main regional airports, located in Bathurst, Orange and Parkes. The flight time is less than one hour from Sydney. Information regarding flights and bookings can be found at <http://www.rex.com.au>.

### Find somewhere to live

When you arrive at your destination you will need somewhere to stay.

#### *Temporary accommodation*

Temporary accommodation such as serviced apartments, hotels and caravan/cabin parks is available in the region. Some sites to search are:

<https://www.stayz.com.au>

<https://www.wotif.com>

<https://www.airbnb.com.au>

<https://www.booking.com>

#### *Renting or buying a property*

For a list of the latest properties available in the area, visit:

<https://www.realestate.com.au>

<https://www.domain.com.au>

### Connect household services

Whether you rent or buy, you may need to connect to some services. Some services are listed below, but there are others, so you should research to find the best deal in your area. Try to give your chosen provider at least a weeks' notice before you expect to move into your new home.

#### *Electricity Service*

AGL: 13 21 45 <https://www.agl.com.au>

Essential Energy: 13 23 91 <https://www.essentialenergy.com.au>

Origin: 13 24 61 <https://www.originenergy.com.au>

<https://youcompare.com.au>

#### *Telephone Service and internet services*

Telstra: 13 22 00 <https://www.telstra.com.au>

Optus: 13 39 37 [www.optus.com.au](http://www.optus.com.au)

<https://youcompare.com.au>

### Groceries

Supermarkets that are located within the region include:

Coles	Woolworths
IGA	Aldi

### Apply for a Tax File Number (TFN)

**Do this as soon as possible.** To receive an income in Australia you need a Tax File Number (TFN). You will not be able to work without it.

To apply for a TFN you can telephone the Australian Taxation Office on 1300 720 092 and have an application form sent to you or apply online. Further information can be found at <https://www.ato.gov.au/forms/tfn---application-for-individuals/>

### Open a bank account

In Australia, payments from an employer are usually paid directly into a bank account. Most work places will require you to have a bank account before you can commence work.

If you open an account within six weeks of arriving in Australia, you might only need to present your passport as identification. After six weeks, you may need extra identification to open a bank account. You will need to go to a bank branch in person to open an account.

### Look for work

If you do not already have a job lined up when you arrive in Australia you will need to look for work. A good place to start is the SEEK job search website:

<https://www.seek.com.au>

You can also approach local recruitment agencies to assist in helping you find work.

### Paying tax and receiving employer superannuation payments

In most workplaces in Australia, tax is taken out of your wages or salary before it is transferred into your bank account. However, there are tax obligations that you need to be aware of. Your employer will also make compulsory superannuation payments to a superannuation account of your choosing.

More information reading tax in Australia and your obligations can found at <https://www.ato.gov.au/individuals/international-tax-for-individuals/in-detail/tax-in-australia--what-you-need-to-know/>

### Get private health insurance

As you are entering Australia on a provisional skilled visa, you will not be entitled to the Government health benefit scheme known as Medicare. It is a good idea to purchase private health insurance. Private health funds may cover or partly subsidise costs for your treatment as a patient in public and private hospitals and may include many other health services such as dental or optical care and ambulance transport.

Before you purchase private health insurance it is important to compare different health funds and choose the right plan for you. These websites can provide useful information:

<https://www.privatehealth.gov.au>

<https://www.iselect.com.au>

### Hospital Locations in the region

#### **Orange Health Service**

1530 Forest Road  
Orange NSW 2800  
Ph: 02 6369 3000

#### **Bathurst Health Service**

361-365 Howick Street  
Bathurst NSW 2795  
Ph: 02 6330 5311

#### **Lachlan Health Service – Parkes**

2 Morrissey Way  
Parkes NSW 2870  
Ph: 02 6861 2400

#### **Lachlan Health Service – Forbes**

Lot 1 Elgin Street  
Forbes NSW 2871  
Ph: 02 6850 7100

#### **Lithgow Hospital**

2 Col Drewe Drive  
Lithgow NSW 2790  
Ph: 02 6350 2300

#### **Cowra Health Service**

64 Liverpool Street  
Cowra NSW 2794  
Ph: 02 6340 9000

#### **Condobolin Health Service**

Madline Street  
Condobolin NSW 2877  
Ph: 02 6890 1500

### Enrol your children in school

Under Australian law schooling becomes compulsory at age of six years. Most children begin primary school aged between four and a half and five and a half years. Children must continue their education until 17 years of age, either at school or through some combination of employment and training.

The education system in Australia is open to all people and offers opportunities for all age groups and levels of ability. Help is available for people who suffer disadvantage.

There are two main types of schools:

- Public schools: The Government provides public schools and public schooling.
- Private schools: These schools are run by other organisations and students pay fees to have a place in these schools. Private schools fees vary from school to school.

Visit the NSW Public Schools website to find the best public school to enrol your children in.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/school-finder>

This website may be useful in locating a private school in your area:

<https://www.privateschoolsdirectory.com.au/>

Information regarding the Temporary Residents Program can be found here:

<https://www.deinternational.nsw.edu.au/study-options/study-programs/temporary-residents>

Tertiary education in the region is provided through the Charles Sturt University campuses located in Orange and Bathurst, and TAFE NSW sites.

<https://about.csu.edu.au/locations/campuses>

<https://www.tafensw.edu.au/locations/western-nsw>

### **Develop your family's English speaking skills**

Most workplaces and educational institutions will expect you to be able to speak English. If you are accompanied by family members who are not confident in speaking English there are English language classes available in the region to assist.

Some sites that may be useful are:

<https://www.tafewestern.edu.au/future-students/adult-migrant-english-program>

<http://www.cwl.nsw.gov.au/learn-a-language>

<https://www.orange.nsw.gov.au/migrant-support>

### **Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)**

The Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) is an interpreting service provided by the Department of Home Affairs for people who do not speak English and for agencies and businesses that need to communicate with their non-English speaking clients.

The TIS National immediate phone interpreting service is available 24 hours a day, every day of the year for the cost of a local call for any person or organisation in Australia who needs an interpreter.

<https://www.tisnational.gov.au>

### Further help if needed

The Orange Migrant Support Service provides support and assistance for migrants and new arrivals to Australia.

<https://www.orange.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Migrant-Support-Services.pdf>

### Local Government Council Areas

#### Orange City Council

135 Byng Street  
Orange NSW 2800  
Ph: 02 6393 8000

<https://www.orange.nsw.gov.au>

#### Parkes Shire Council

2 Cecile Street  
Parkes NSW 2870  
Ph: 02 6861 2333

<https://www.parkes.nsw.gov.au>

#### Lithgow City Council

180 Mort Street  
Lithgow NSW 2790  
Ph: 02 6354 9999

<http://council.lithgow.com>

#### Lachlan Shire Council – Condobolin

58-64 Molong Street  
Condobolin NSW 2877  
Ph: 02 6895 1900

<http://www.lachlan.nsw.gov.au>

#### Bathurst Regional Council

158 Russell Street  
Bathurst NSW 2795  
Ph: 02 6333 6111

<https://www.bathurst.nsw.gov.au>

#### Forbes Shire Council

2 Court Street  
Forbes NSW 2871  
Ph: 02 6850 2300

<http://www.forbes.nsw.gov.au>

#### Cowra Council

116 Kendal Street  
Cowra NSW 2794  
Ph: 02 6340 2000

<https://www.cowracouncil.com.au>