

Information for Participants

Oceania Regional Preparatory Workshop for the 12th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)

Brisbane, Australia, 28-30 August 2017

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VISA INFORMATION



All passport holders of the participating countries, namely:

Cook Islands
Fiji
New Zealand
Palau
Philippines
Samoa

are eligible to apply for a [Visitor visa \(subclass 600\)](#). This visa lets you visit Australia for leisure or business purposes and can be issued for up to three, six or twelve months.

The [base application charge](#) for this visa ranges from AUD135 to AUD1000.

Passport holders of all countries named above can [apply for this visa online](#) from outside Australia.

If you are a passport holder of any other country, please use the [visa finder](#) on the website of the Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection for information on the respective country.

1. PAYMENT OF THE DAILY SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE (DSA)

Participants, eligible for funding, will receive their full DSA at the beginning of the workshop to cover accommodation, food, and incidental expenses, such as the taxes imposed on departure and arrival, terminals and local transportation. The CMS Secretary has reserved rooms at the workshop's venue. However, funded participants are requested to book and pay their own accommodation.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION ON ACCESS TO BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

Brisbane is served by the Brisbane Airport, approximately 8 miles from the city centre. The Jen Hotel is located about 30 minutes from the airport. Please notice that the CMS Secretariat does not organize transportation from or to the airport. **Taxis** are available outside Arrivals at the domestic and international terminals and will cost about AUD 50.

Another option to get to Hotel Jen is taking **Brisbane's Airtrain**. Services run daily, with trains departing every 15 minutes from the airport. A one-way ticket from the airport to the city (or the other way around) costs AUD 17.50 and travel time is approximately 26 minutes. You have to get off at Roma Street Station, which is adjacent to Hotel Jen.

The Hotel Jen provides limousine services to and from the Airport. Please email hjbb@hoteljen.com for more information. Please check the Hotel's [information about Airport Connections](#) for other options, such as car rentals.

A well-established public transport system makes it convenient to get around the city. For more information on buses, trains and ferries please click [here](#).

3. HOTEL INFORMATION



The CMS Secretariat has reserved rooms for the duration of the Workshop in the following hotel, which is also the workshop venue:

Hotel Jen
159 Roma Street
Brisbane, QLD 4000
Australia
Tel.: +61 7 3238 2222
E-mail: hjbb@hoteljen.com
Website: <https://www.hoteljen.com/brisbane/romastreet/about/>

The rate is 150 AUD (currently 119 USD) per night including breakfast. Please use the code CON260817 – please be advised that you will need to book between Monday and Friday 08.00 – 16.00 and quote the code to our onsite reservations team. If you call outside of these hours they will get our call centre who will not be aware of this rate.

Alternatively you can email your reservation to: groupres.hjbb@hoteljen.com or reservations.hjbb@hoteljen.com

Participants that would prefer another accommodation can find some suggestions for hotels in close proximity to the venue under the following links:

Ibis Brisbane Hotel

<http://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-2062-ibis-brisbane/index.shtml>

Hotel Urban Brisbane

<http://www.hotelurban.com.au/brisbane/brisbane-rooms/>

George Williams Hotel

<http://www.georgewilliamshotel.com.au/>

4. VENUE

The Oceania Regional Preparatory Workshop for the 12th Conference of the Parties takes place in the room ROMA of **Hotel Jen**, Brisbane.

Hotel Jen
159 Roma Street
Brisbane, QLD 4000
Australia

Tel.: +61 7 3238 2222
E-mail: hjbb@hoteljen.com
Website: <https://www.hoteljen.com/brisbane/romastreet/gather/>

The workshops will start at 8:30 a.m. on 28 August, and registration will be open at the meeting venue from 8:00 a.m. the same day.

5. WORKING LANGUAGE

The Regional Preparatory Workshop is going to be held in English.



6. DOCUMENTS

Participants are kindly reminded to bring their own copies of the pre-session documents for the workshop as there will be no extra copies made available on site. Use of printers will be limited and e-copy use is encouraged. Documents are available on the UNEP/CMS Secretariat's [webpage](#) dedicated to this workshop.

7. OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Australia does not have an official language, but is largely monolingual with English being the national language.



8. WEATHER AND TIME ZONE INFORMATION

Brisbane enjoys a subtropical climate, defined by warm or hot weather for most of the year. In Winter (June – August), it is generally dry and mild with mean temperatures between 11 - 21°C (51.8 - 69.8°F). Early mornings and nights can be crisp, but overnight lows rarely drop below 9°C (48.2°F).

For more information about the climate and current weather forecasts please visit the website of the [Australian Bureau of Meteorology](#).

Brisbane applies to Australian Eastern Standard Time UTC+10.

9. INFORMATION ABOUT HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

Brisbane has a number of public hospitals and medical centres should you experience illness or injury while visiting.

If you are visiting from overseas, you generally are not covered under Australia's public Medicare system for medical or hospital expenses.

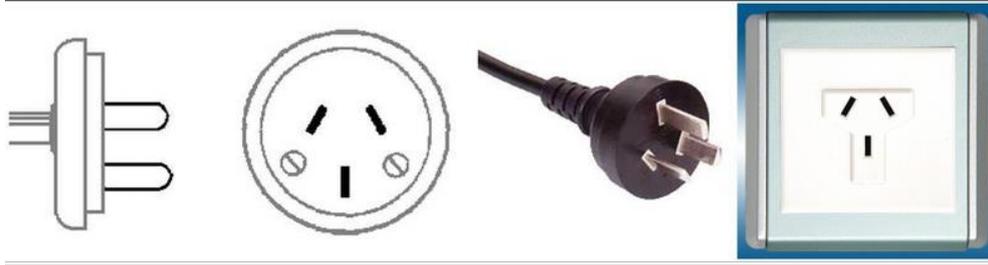
Therefore, please make sure that your insurance covers travels in other countries or subscribe to a travel insurance before starting your trip, as without health cover you can find yourself responsible for the full cost of treatment. For more information about health insurance for overseas visitors, please click [here](#).

As the sun can be very strong, please make sure to use sunglasses and SPF 30+ sunscreen when you are outside. Please stay out of the sun during the middle of the day and make sure you drink plenty of fluids to avoid dehydration.

There are no specific vaccinations recommended for Australia. Please notice that you must provide a proof of **yellow fever vaccination only** if you are coming from a country with risk of yellow fever.

10. ELECTRICITY

The Australian electrical current is 220–240 volts, AC 50Hz. The three-pin power outlet is different from some other countries, so you might need an adaptor. The type of plugs is illustrated below.



11. CURRENCY

The official currency in Australia is the Australian dollar (AUD). The current exchange rate as of 6 July 2017 is US \$1 = AUD 1.32 or can be checked [here](#).

All Brisbane areas are serviced by cash machines which accept Visa, MasterCard, Cirrus and Maestro cards. The most commonly accepted credit cards are American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard, Visa, JCB and their affiliates. Banks and foreign exchange services are also available at the airport and throughout the city centre.

12. OPENING HOURS

Trading hours vary across Australia but shops in tourist and city areas are generally open seven days a week until 6pm with late-night shopping on Fridays in the city centre.

13. SAFETY INFORMATION

Brisbane is generally a safe destination, with tourists enjoying unhindered travel experiences in terms of their personal safety. In the event that you require emergency assistance, you can contact police, ambulance and/or fire brigade by calling Triple Zero (000).

14. DISCLAIMER

The CMS Secretariat disclaims all responsibility for medical, accident and travel insurance, compensation for death or disability compensation, loss of or damage to personal property and any other loss that may be incurred during travel time or the duration of the meetings/workshop. In this context, it is strongly recommended to secure international medical and travel insurance for the period of travel and participation at the meetings/workshop, prior to departure from home country.



Have a good trip and enjoy your stay in Brisbane!