



How to obtain Permanent Residency and Citizenship by Investing in Australia

Australia also known as Oz or the Land Down Under or even the Lucky Country, is a popular destination for those looking for investment opportunities which lead to Permanent Residency and thereafter Citizenship. Over 24 million people inhabit Australia, which is surrounded by the Indian and Pacific Ocean, and despite it being the smallest continent, it is the 6th largest country by total area.

Many people often assume that the capital city of Australia is either Sydney or Melbourne but in fact in 1908 a decision could not be made and so Canberra, the largest inland city, was chosen to be the capital city.

Australia is principally divided into 6 states, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia giving plenty of choice for investment opportunities.

What does Australia have to offer to investors?

Australia is one of the wealthiest countries in the world and is ranked with the 12th largest economy. According to The Economist's 2014 list of the world's most liveable cities, Melbourne reached the top spot, 4 years in a row followed by Adelaide, Sydney and Perth in 5th, 7th and 9th place respectively. It therefore has so much to offer to those who wish to make it their new home.

Not only does an investment into Australia give you the ability to work or study in Australia, it provides a safe living environment with the highest standard of living in the world, tropical weather, subsidized healthcare system and a multicultural environment to raise a family.

Australia provides a number of options to foreign investors who are looking to make the move across the ocean, and with direct flights from Asia, the dream of giving your family a better opportunity is closer to becoming a reality.

There are many different options available for investing in Australia but the two most popular are:

Significant Investment Visa (SIV)

The SIV enables the investor to make an investment of minimum AUD 5 million into a complying investment (as broken down below) for a minimum period of 4 years and maintain business and investment activity in Australia. Other than meeting the minimal physical residence requirement of 40 days per year (or cumulatively over the 4-year period), the other requirements include meeting Australian health and character requirements and providing evidence that your assets were lawfully acquired. There are no requirements with regards to age limits, English language proficiency or achieving a number of points to be eligible, which make it an attractive option for investors who wish to move to Australia. The SIV allows the applicant to travel in and out of Australia for the life of the visa, to bring members of the applicant family unit with him/her to Australia and seek permanent residence by applying for a Permanent visa.

In order to comply with the SIV requirements, the applicant must invest at least AUD 5 million in the following proportions:

- At least AUD 500,000 in venture capital and growth private equity funds which invest in start-ups and small private companies;
- At least AUD 1.5 million in approved managed funds investing in emerging companies listed on the Australian Stock Exchange; and
- A 'balancing investment' of at least AUD 3 million in managed funds that may invest in a range of assets.

After 4 years, the successful SIV applicant may apply for Permanent Residency and thereafter the possibility to apply for Citizenship subject to meeting the requirements.

Investor Visa

Also known as the 188b Investor Visa, which allows for an applicant to make an investment of at least AUD 1.5 million in a State or Territory's government bonds using unencumbered funds accumulated from a qualifying business or eligible investment.

Whilst there are some additional requirements that need to be established including those detailed for the SIV, it is still seen as a great opportunity for investors achieving their goal to move to Australia. Those requirements include being under 55 years of age, achieving at least 65 points, English language proficiency, meeting health and character requirements but also providing evidence of business and personal net assets of at least AUD 2.25 million, by the applicant and/or spouse, in the 2 fiscal years preceding the invitation date, management skills for at least 3 years, and having a genuine intention to live for at least 2 years out of the 4 in the state or territory in which you have made a designated investment.

Any investment needs to be kept in a complying investment for the 4-year period, however, it is possible to move funds from one complying investment to another during the investment period as long as it is reinvested within 30

days. Prior to making any withdrawals it is however advisable to discuss the matter to ensure the applicants visa is not made invalid.

For further information about the Australia Investor programs, or any other investment immigration opportunities, contact your Harvey Law Group representative.

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