



STUDENT GUIDE TO MELBOURNE BOOKLET

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About Melbourne

There is much to love about Melbourne. Just ask the locals. This sophisticated world city in the south-east corner of mainland Australia inspires a deep passion in those lucky enough to live here.

They love its vibrant energy, staggering choice of restaurants, funky boutiques, café-filled laneways, cool bars, unbeatable galleries, luscious parks and village-like inner suburbs, each with its own special character.

Melbourne, a relatively modern city that is less than 200 years old, never rests. New futuristic designs add to the fascinating mix of architecture and ensure the skyline is constantly changing.

Melbourne is very much about lifestyle. It is no huge surprise to residents that their city has been named in an international poll as the world's most liveable city. Melburnians embrace three things in particular: sport (Australian Rules football is almost a religion); fashion (the look is chic with a dash of quirky); and festivals (the calendar is packed year round).

They even embrace their notoriously changeable weather. A standing joke in Australia is that Melbourne can experience four seasons in a day. But, really, it's just another example of how they have it all!

Accommodation Guide

There are several housing and accommodation options available, students can choose to share and/or rent an apartment, flat, or house, or stay in student apartment complexes or hostels, or live with a family in a homestay or boarding arrangement.

Temporary Accommodation

New international students often prefer to stay in temporary accommodation when they first arrive in Melbourne. This allows time to become familiar with the city and to find suitable and convenient permanent accommodation.

The places listed in Appendix 1 offer a range of inexpensive accommodation choices close to the city. You pay for your temporary accommodation when you arrive (unless stated otherwise).

Permanent Accommodation

Most students choose one of these options (costs are an approximate indication only):

- A.** To rent or share an apartment, flat or house for 12 months. Costs include rent, food, telephone calls, gas, and/or electricity. You may need to buy furniture and other household goods. A bond will usually be paid before you move in.
- Weekly rent: Flat/Apartment: one bedroom: AU\$135-\$300
 - Flat/Apartment: two bedrooms: AU\$170-\$350
 - House: allow AU\$80-\$150 per person

When you share a flat, apartment, or house everyone shares the kitchen, bathroom, laundry, and living rooms. You have your own bedroom.

- B.** To live in a private hostel where you will have your own furnished bedroom, and shared bathroom & living areas. Some hostels provide meals, whilst others provide kitchen facilities. Computer facilities may also be available.
- Accommodation can be for 3, 6 or 12 months. Payment of a bond may also be required.
 - Weekly rent: AU\$130-\$300
- C.** To live with a family ('homestay'). You will have your own bedroom and shared living spaces with your homestay family. Meals are included but you will pay for your telephone calls and travel expenses. If this is your first time living away from home, you may find the transition in to tertiary life much easier if you don't have to adjust to independent living simultaneously.
- Weekly rent: AU\$165-\$170

The *Accommodation Guide for Students* booklet produced by AVETA includes some of the residences available. Prices and facilities vary. AVETA does not endorse any particular accommodation service, so check out the websites or contact the residences directly for more information and to find accommodation that suits your needs.

Renting

Renting your own apartment or house through a Real Estate Agent or private landlord offers students greater privacy and independence. Most rental properties are unfurnished so initial set-up costs would have to include furniture and appliances. These can all be purchased new or second-hand.

Shared House Accommodation

Moving into an established household that has a vacant bedroom is often an easier and cheaper option than leasing a vacant house or flat. You will pay rent for your own bedroom and share the bathroom, kitchen, and living areas with the other people in the household.

To find a household to join, check the *The Age* newspaper property section, or look at housing noticeboards at other city Universities such as RMIT & the University of Melbourne, or wait until you meet other students wanting to share a house. There are also a number of websites (for example, www.gumtree.com.au) where you can find vacant rooms.

<u>Temporary Accommodation</u>
<p>The Elephant Backpacker (City Centre Budget Accommodation) 250 Flinders Street, Melbourne, 3000 Phone: +61 3 9654 2616 Email: elephantb@hotmail.com Website: www.elephantbackpackers.citysearch.com.au</p>
<p>The Greenhouse Backpacker & the Friendly Backpacker 228 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, 3000 Phone: +61 3 9639 6400 or +61 3 9670 1111 Freecall: 1800 249 207 Email: renouf@friendlygroup.com.au Website: www.friendlygroup.com.au</p>
<p>The Melbourne Connection Traveller's Hostel 205 King Street, Melbourne, 3000 Phone: +61 3 9642 4464 Website: www.Melbourneconnection.com</p>
<p>Miami Motor Inn 13 Hawke Street, West Melbourne, 3000 Phone: +61 3 9321 2444 Freecall: 1800 132 333 Email: desk@themiami.com.au Website: www.themiami.com.au</p>
<p>Victoria Hall 380 Russell Street, Melbourne, 3000 Phone: +61 3 9662 3888 Free call: 1800 670 611 Email: reception@victoriahall.com.au Website: www.victoriahall.com.au</p>

<p>Victoria Hotel 215 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, 3000 Phone: +61 3 9653 0441 Freecall: 1800 331 147 Email: stay@victoriahotel.com.au Website: www.victoriahotel.com.au</p>
<p><u>Self Contained Student Apartment Complexes</u></p>
<p>While allowing students to live independently, these large complexes also provide student facilities and services resulting in a secure and supportive residential environment. Most complexes have a management team and 24 hour on-site security.</p>
<p>Arrow on Swanston 488 Swanston Street, Carlton, 3053 Phone: 9225 9000 Email: accommodation@arrowonswanston.com.au Web site: www.arrowonswanston.com.au</p>
<p>Global Village Accommodation 35 - 41 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, 3000 Phone: 8687 6188 Fax: 8687 6199 Email: info@globalvillageaccom.com.au Web site: www.globalvillageaccom.com.au</p>
<p>Haywood Lane Haywood Lane, Melbourne, 3000 Phone: 9659 1905 Email: geoff@shma.net Website: www.studenthousing.au.com</p>
<p>Le Student 8 205 Bell Street, Preston, 3072 Phone: +61 3 9485 0200 Fax: +61 3 9485 0280 Email: info@lestudent8.com Website: www.lestudent8.com</p>
<p>Lonsdale Central Apartments 441 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, 3000 Phone: 9670 7788 Fax: 9640 0838</p>
<p>Merlin Apartments 300 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, 3000 Phone: 9670 7788 Fax: 9640 0838 Email: jyew@merlinproperties.com.au Web site: www.merlinproperties.com.au</p>
<p>Uni Lodge on Flinders 238 Flinders Street, Melbourne, 3000 Phone: +61 3 9224 1500 Fax: +61 3 9224 1530 Email: unilodge.flinders@unilodge.com.au Website: www.unilodge.com.au</p>

Uni Lodge on Swanston

339 Swanston Walk, Melbourne, 3000
Phone: +61 3 9224 7888
Fax: +61 3 9224 7777
Email: unilodge.swanston@unilodge.com.au
Website: www.unilodge.com.au

University Residence, Maribyrnong Student Village (Owned and operated by Victoria University but open to all tertiary students).

Williamson Road, Maribyrnong, Victoria 3032
Phone: +61 3 9304 6300
Fax: +61 3 9318 5232
E-mail: info@village.vu.edu.au
Website: www.residences.vu.edu.au

UCA Melbourne, University City Apartments

408 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, 3000
Phone: +61 3 9600 1855
Fax: +61 3 9600 3977
Email: info@unicityapartments.com.au
Website: www.unicityapartments.com.au

Private Hostels/Residential Halls
(HOSTELS WITH MEALS PROVIDED)

Brunswick Street College

4 Wood Street, Fitzroy 3065
Phone: 0417 321 493
Email: brunswick_street_college@hotmail.com

Carlton College Hostel (A small private student hostel in the inner city suburb of Carlton offering full board at competitive rates and a friendly atmosphere).

101 Drummond Street, Carlton, 3053
Phone: +61 3 9664 0664
Free Call 1800 066 551
Email: admin@carltoncollege.com.au
Website: www.carltoncollege.com.au

Don Bosco Hostel (For 16-22 year old males only)

715 Sydney Road, Brunswick, 3056
Phone: +61 3 9383 5333
Email: hostel@donbosco.org.au
Website: www.donbosco.org.au

Edith Head Hall (Accommodation for female tertiary students)

180 Chetwynd Street, North Melbourne, 3051
Phone: +61 3 9329 0944
Fax: +61 3 9329 8414
Email: edithhall@pacific.net.au
Website: www.edithhall.org.au

Kew Baptist Student Hostel

25 Mary Street, Kew, 3101
Phone: +61 3 9853 5402
Fax: +61 3 9853 6714
Email: manager@kbsb.org
Website: www.kbsb.org

<p>MNSH (Madre Nazarena Student's House, Accommodation for female tertiary students) 311 Church Street, Richmond, 3121 Phone: +61 3 9429 9620 Fax: +61 3 9429 6611 Email: shmelb@fdz.com.au Website: www.fdz.com.au</p>
<p>Victoria Hall accommodation 380 Russell Street, Melbourne, 3000 Phone: +61 3 9662 3888 Free call: 1800 670 611 Email: reception@victoriahall.com.au Website: www.victoriahall.com.au</p>
<p><u>Self Catering Hostels</u></p>
<p>BOUVERIE RESIDENCE Bouverie Street, Carlton, 3053 Phone: +61 3 9347 8000 Fax: +61 3 9347 8222 Email: admin@rooms.net.au Website: www.rooms.net.au</p>
<p>CARLTON STUDENT ACCOMMODATION 92 Grattan Street, Carlton, 3053 Phone: +61 3 9347 2670 Email: rooms@studentaccommodation.com.au Website: www.studentaccommodation.com.au</p>
<p>CARLTON STUDENT ACCOMMODATION 372-374 Drummond Street, Carlton, 3053 Phone: +61 3 9347 2670 Email: rooms@studentaccommodation.com.au Website: www.studentaccommodation.com.au</p>
<p>DALKEITH HOSTEL 460 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne, 3051 Mobile: 0409 016521 Email: dalkeithhouse@hotmail.com Website: http://unite.com.au/~u7023a/index.html</p>
<p>ELGIN LODGE 77 Elgin Street, Carlton, 3053 Phone: +61 3 9859 4862 Email: elginlodge@dodo.com.au Website: www.rentfast.com.au</p>
<p>GEORGES TERRACE 61-63 Cardigan Street, Carlton, 3053 Phone: +61 3 9354 9991 Email: georgeterrace@hotmail.com</p>
<p>GLADHOLME 162-170 Sydney Road, Brunswick, 3056 Phone: +61 3 9388 8198 Email: gladholme@pobox.com Website: www.gladholme.com.au</p>

GRATTAN HOUSE

16-20 Grattan Place, Carlton, 3053
Phone: +61 3 9404 2190
Fax: +61 3 9436 4042
Email: grattanhouse@optusnet.com.au

MONET RESIDENCE

Nicholson Street, Carlton, 3053
Phone: +61 3 9347 8000
Fax: +61 3 9347 8222
Email: admin@rooms.net.au
Website: www.rooms.net.au

QUEENSBERRY STREET HOUSE

612-614 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne, 3051
Phone: 0412 359 810
Fax: +61 3 9326 5176
Email: sulynoz@yahoo.com
Website: www.yourMelbournehome.com.au

RICHMOND HOUSE - YWCA FLATS (Females over 18 only)

353A Church Street, Richmond, 3121
Phone: +61 3 9429 4374
Fax: +61 3 9421 2146
Email: rhouse@ywca.net
Website: www.ywca.net

THE TERRACE

51 Cardigan Street, Carlton, 3053
Phone: +61 3 9458 3226
Email: terrace51@hotmail.com

WALSH RESIDENCES

48 Walsh Street, North Melbourne, 3051
Phone: +61 3 9347 8000
Fax: +61 3 9347 8222
Email: admin@rooms.net.au
Website: www.rooms.net.au

Private Board and Homestay

A Private Homestay Consultant can arrange a placement for you. The placement fee is usually around \$100. Below is a list of some private Homestay consultants.

Australian Student Accommodation Placement (ASAP)

Contact: Lynn Felder
Phone: 03 9531 8476
Mobile: 0407 554102
Email: asap@hotlinks.net.au
Website: www.hotlinks.net.au/asap

Familystay Australia

Contact: Margaret Vella
Phone: 03 9574 7473
Email: familystay@bigpond.com

Homestay Victoria

Contact: Stefan Morgan
Phone: 9642 1566

Mobile 0412 036579
Email: homestay@homestay-australia.com
Website: www.homestay-australia.com

Student Accommodation Services

58 Rathmines Street, Fairfield 3078
Phone: 9486 1916
Fax: 9486 2333
Email: sacomm@bigpond.net.au
Website: www.student-accommodation.com.au

Host-a-Student Victoria

2/14 Oxford Street, East Brighton 3187
Phone: +61 3 9530 8843
Mobile: 0408 428 438
Email: host_a_student@bigpond.com

Private Rental Properties

To find private rental properties, check the following:
The Property Guide in *The Age* newspaper on Wednesdays and Fridays.
Alternatively, use *The Age* property website at: www.domain.com.au or realestate.com.au to search particular suburbs and areas of Melbourne. Look in the *Melbourne Yellow Pages* under 'Real Estate Agents' or <http://www.yellowpages.com.au> Remember to start your Rent/Share Search in Victoria (VIC). Search for Real Estate Agents in the suburb or area where you are looking for accommodation. Agents in the city and inner suburbs include:

Melbourne CBD

Inner City Management
Level 4, 365 Queen Street, Melbourne, 3000
Phone: +61 3 9670 0422
Email: info@micm.com.au
Website: www.micm.com.au

L R Reed P/L

Level 4, 140 Bourke Street, Melbourne, 3000
Phone: +61 3 9639 4888
Email: lrread@lrread.com.au
Website: www.lrread.com.au

Hocking Stuart (Melbourne) P/L

Level 1, 388 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, 3000
Phone: +61 3 9670 3550
Email: Melbourne@hockingstuart.com.au
Website: www.hockingstuart.com.au

G A Thomson & Co

393 Rathdowne Street, Carlton, 3053
Phone: +61 3 9347 1755
Email: carlton@thomson.net.au
Website: www.thomson.net.au

Woodards

633 Nicholson Street, Carlton North, 3054
Phone: +61 3 9387 1000
Email: carlton@woodards.com.au
Website: www.woodards.com.au

Public Transport

If using the public transport system in Melbourne, you will need to purchase a Myki card. Then you'll be able to use public transport in and around the city.

Plan your trip

<http://ptv.vic.gov.au/>

Purchase Myki

<http://ptv.vic.gov.au/fares-tickets/myki/buying-your-myki/>

If you need to travel to the country or interstate you can do so by taking a V line train or bus.

For more information contact V/Line

Telephone: 136 196 (daily between the hours of 6am-midnight, 7 days a week)

There's also the free City Circle Tram to get you around to all the city's major attractions. Trams run in both directions every 10 minutes, seven days a week between 10am & 6pm (except Christmas Day & Good Friday), & during daylight saving extended hours, 10am to 9pm every Thursday, Friday & Saturday.

For more information visit

www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au

NightRider bus service

The NightRider is a bus service on Friday & Saturday late nights & early mornings. NightRider buses leave from the corner of Swanston & Collins streets or at Crown Entertainment Complex or at any NightRider stop along one of its nine routes.

The service has more than 300 stops along nine major routes to Bayswater, Craigieburn, Croydon, Dandenong, Eltham, Epping, Frankston, St Albans & Werribee. Special services also operate during the year to support major Melbourne events such as the Australian Grand Prix & New Year's Eve.

For more information visit

www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au

Library Services

City Library

The City Library, in the heart of Melbourne, offers more than 90,000 books, CDs, DVDs, videos and magazines for all ages. An online catalogue also enables users to request any of the 300,000 items from the nearby inner-city Yarra-Melbourne regional libraries. Large print and audio books are available as well as disability access services including voice-activated and print-magnifying software.

Other features include 29 public access computers, three photocopiers/printers, a community gallery, a 12-person meeting room, a 70-seat conference room, a café, and coin-operated lockers.

For more information visit

www.citylibrary.org.au

For more information call

Telephone: 9664 0800

State Library of Victoria

Victoria's major reference library, the State Library of Victoria, is located on Swanston St in the city. Of world repute, this public reference library houses a specialist collection of Australiana. A key role of the library is the gathering of information about the State of Victoria. As a result, more than 700,000 images are housed within this magnificent building. Every issue of major international and Victorian newspapers printed can be found here, plus diaries, records, and manuscripts. Fascinating Gallipoli war diaries can be found in the vaults, as well as records of Burke & Wills' expedition of the late 1800s – to name but a few iconic pieces.

For more information visit

www.statelibrary.vic.gov.au

Yarra Melbourne Regional Library Service

The City of Melbourne has three public libraries - North Melbourne, East Melbourne and the City Library.

For more information visit

www.ymrl.org.au/libraryinformation/libraryinformation.htm

Postal Services

Postal services (both local and international) are provided by Australia Post.

For more information visit

www.auspost.com.au

Driving

To drive a car in Australia, you must have a valid driver's licence and the vehicle you are driving must be registered with the government and be roadworthy.

For more information about licences & motor vehicle registration visit

<http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/Home/>

Penalties for breaking traffic laws in Australia can be severe. Penalties may include expensive fines, losing your driver's licence, or imprisonment. Each driver is given a number of demerit points when they are licensed. Points will be deducted for each offence, called demerits. When your licence has no points left, it will be suspended or cancelled. The laws are very strict about driving over the speed limit (speeding) and driving after drinking alcohol (drink driving).

Speeding is a major cause of accidents resulting in death. Speed cameras are used by police in all states and territories to measure how fast your vehicle is travelling.

Drink driving is considered a very serious matter. Drink driving is a criminal offence in Australia and a criminal conviction can be recorded if you are caught over the blood alcohol limit.

Police randomly test the breath of drivers to measure the amount of alcohol in their blood by using a device called a breathalyser.

The permitted alcohol level in most states & territories is 0.05, which is 0.05 grams of alcohol in every 100ml of your blood.

In Victoria, professional drivers such as truck, bus, or taxi drivers as well as P-plater and learner drivers must have a 0.00 blood alcohol concentration (BAC) at all times. All other drivers must stay under the 0.05 blood alcohol concentration (BAC). You must be under the 0.05 blood alcohol concentration (BAC) while supervising a learner driver. This rule applies to public roads as well as private property.

Transportation and Parking

If you need to drive into the city, parking is quick, easy and safe. The city has more than 70,000 car spaces; you'll never be more than 200m from a supervised, commercial car park. Melbourne City has over 140 privately run car parks, most of which are undercover and multilevel.

Parking restrictions generally operate from 7.30am to 6.30pm across the whole municipality including the CBD.

For more information visit

www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/info.cfm?top=269&pg=2325

Park & Ride

Using three conveniently located car parks at Colonial Stadium, Olympic Park and the new Melbourne Museum - commuters will now be able to park their cars for a whole day and travel on all trams within the city for just \$8.50, Monday through Friday from 7am until 7pm.

For more information visit

www.yarratrams.com.au

CityLink, EastLink and Peninsula Link

Melbourne has a series of tollways that provide quick and easy access to various areas of the city for a small fee. CityLink is divided into two sections, the Southern and Western Links. It connects the Tullamarine Freeway, the West Gate & the Monash Freeways. EastLink connects the eastern suburbs to the Eastern Freeway and the Frankston freeway. Peninsula Link connects EastLink/Frankston Freeway to the Mornington Peninsula area.

To use these roads you need to purchase a CityLink day-pass or e-tag, which can be purchased online, over the phone, at Shell Touch outlets, or participating Australia Post Offices.

For more information visit

<http://www.citylink.com.au> or www.eastlink.com.au

Disabled parking

There are 2 types of parking permits that are available for disabled people. One permit is blue-on-white and the other permit is green-on-white. Council issues both.

Blue-on-white permit

A parking space reserved for the disabled can be used only by someone with a blue-on-white disabled parking permit, or by a driver who is parking the car so that the disabled permit holder can get in or out of the car.

Green-on-white permit

A disabled person who holds only a green-on-white permit, or who does not hold any permit, cannot use a parking space reserved for the disabled. Holders of either permit can park for twice the time normally allowed in ordinary parking spaces.

A disabled parking permit must be displayed at the left side of the front windscreen, so that the permit number and expiry date can be seen from outside. The driver must give his or her name, address and produce their driver's licence and the permit when asked to do so by police or an authorised officer.

Pollution, littering and protecting the environment

A clean environment and the protection of nature are important to Australians. It is illegal to litter, create pollution or dispose of waste without permission. Lighting a fire in an outdoor area is also banned at certain times of the year. Australia has a high risk of bush and forest fires, especially during summer and/or drought conditions. A total fire ban is enforced on days of extreme fire danger when weather conditions and the dryness of vegetation increase the risk of fires starting and spreading. During a total fire ban, fires cannot be lit in most outdoor areas. Lighting fires during this time can result in a large fine and imprisonment. Cigarettes can easily start a fire so they should be put out fully before disposal.

For more information visit

www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/Home/Licensing/BushFireAffectedAreasLicensingArrangements.htm

Certain species of native flora and fauna (including animals, trees & ferns, birds, snakes and other reptiles, fish and shellfish) are protected by law. Do not go hunting, fishing or collecting plants or wildlife before first checking whether you need a permit. Native wildlife must not be kept as pets without a permit. Collecting or capturing native wildlife or plants can result in very large fines and imprisonment.

There are also special rules which apply to National Parks to prevent them being spoiled. These include removing all rubbish when leaving, and not allowing domestic animals such as cat and dogs into the parks.

Australian Customs

Australia is a tolerant society with people from many different cultures. Although Australia has a large range of customs, each individual is encouraged to maintain and share their cultural beliefs and practice. You must, however, do so within the framework of Australian law whilst also respecting the right of others to do the same. To adapt to life in the Australian community, it is important to be aware of some common customs.

Meeting people & communicating

When meeting someone for the first time, it is usual to shake the person's right hand with your right hand (called a 'handshake'). People who do not know each other generally do not kiss or hug when meeting.

Many Australians look at the eyes of the people they are talking with. This is considered to be a sign of respect and an indication that they are listening.

When meeting a new person, Australians are generally not comfortable asking, or being asked, questions relating to their age, sexuality, marital status, or financial position.

Unless you have been introduced to someone by their first name, or asked to call them by their first name, it is common to address a new acquaintance using their title and family name (e.g. Mr Jones, Mrs Citizen, Ms Smith, and Dr Richards). In the workplace and among friends, most Australians tend to be informal and call each other by their first names.

Clothing

Australia is a diverse society. The variety of clothing which people wear reflects this diversity. There are no laws or rules on clothing, although there are requirements to wear certain clothing for work situations. These include safety boots and hard hats at construction sites or uniforms for police, military or other corporations.

Most workplaces have certain dress standards. Outside of the work situation, clothing is an individual choice. Many people dress for comfort or according to the social situation and/or weather. Many Australians tend to dress casually and informally. Clubs, movie theatres and other places may require patrons to be in neat, clean clothing and appropriate footwear (not thongs/flip flops).

Many Australians live close to the beach. This has led to a tradition of wearing very casual or little clothing on the beach and surrounding areas, particularly on hot days. This does not mean that people who are dressed to go to the beach or swimming are prostitutes or inviting others to touch them. Uninvited touching is unacceptable, regardless of what clothes people are wearing. People are protected under the law from physical assault.

Many Australians of different backgrounds also choose to wear traditional dress which may be religious or customary: including monks' robe, burqa, hijab (headscarf) and turban. As a tolerant society with people from many different cultures, clothing that is a part of cultural beliefs or practices are accepted and encouraged. Many newly arrived migrants also choose not to wear traditional dress, based on what they are comfortable wearing. Source: <http://www.immi.gov.au>

Polite behaviour

"Please" and "thank you" are words which are very helpful when dealing with other people and buying goods or services. When asked if you would like something, like a cup of tea, it is polite to say "yes, please", or just "please" if you would like it, or "no, thank you" if you do not. When you receive something or have been helped, it is polite to thank the person by saying "thank you".

Australians tend to think that people who do not say "please" or "thank you" are being rude. Using these words will help in building a good relationship. Sometimes a sensitive issue may come up in conversation. Not to talk may seem rude. It is more polite to say "sorry, it is too hard to explain" than to ignore a question. You will usually be excused for misunderstandings that might occur. Making an effort, however, will be appreciated.

Australians usually say "excuse me" to get someone's attention & "sorry" when we accidentally bump into

someone. Australians also say "excuse me" or "pardon me" when we burp or belch in public or someone's home. You should always try to be on time for meetings and other appointments. If you realise you are going to be late, try to contact the person to let them know. This is very important for professional appointments as you could be charged money for being late or if you miss the appointment without letting the person know in advance. A person who is always late may be considered to be unreliable.

Most Australians blow their noses into handkerchiefs or tissues, not onto the pavement. This is also true for spitting. Many people will also say "bless you" when you sneeze - this phrase has no religious intent. It is important to know that some behaviour is not only impolite, but also against the law. Examples include swearing in public, pushing in front of people in a line (queue), and urinating or defecating anywhere except in a public or private toilet.

Common Australian expressions

Many common Australian expressions or slang (technically called 'colloquialisms') may seem strange to people new to Australia. Slang words originate from many different sources. Some are Indigenous words. Many started during Australia's early European settlement, or during the two world wars. Some words are shortened versions of longer words. Many were expressions already used by migrants who came from the north of England.

If you are unsure what an expression means, it is acceptable to ask the person who said it. Australians are happy to explain. Some common expressions are:

Bring a plate

When you are invited to a party and asked to "bring a plate", it means to bring a dish of food to share with your host and other guests. The food can be brought to the party in any type of dish, not just a plate, and it is usually cooked. This is common for communal gatherings such as for school, work or a club. If you are unsure what to bring, you can ask the host.

BYO

When you are invited to a party and told to "BYO", it means "bring your own" drink. If you do not drink alcohol, it is acceptable to bring juice, soft drink or soda, or water. Some restaurants are BYO. You can bring your own wine to these, although there is usually a charge for providing and cleaning glasses called "corkage".

Arvo (afternoon)

"Drop by this arvo" means please come and visit this afternoon.

Fortnight (two weeks)

Every fortnight is every two weeks. Many Australians are paid fortnightly by their employer.

Barbeque, BBQ, Barbie

A BBQ is outdoor cooking, usually of meat over a grill or hotplate, using gas or coals. The meat is usually served with salads and bread rolls. It is common for a guest, when invited to a BBQ, to ask if they should bring anything.

Snag (sausages)

'Snag' refers to a raw meat sausage which are cooked at a BBQ. These are commonly made of pork, lamb, beef, or chicken. You can also purchase vegetarian (tofu) sausages, as well as Halal or Kosher meat sausages from speciality stores.

Chook (chicken) "Let's have a roasted chook for dinner"

Cuppa (a cup of tea or coffee)

"Drop by this arvo for a cuppa" means please come and visit this afternoon for a cup of tea or coffee. An invitation to tea, on the other hand, could instead mean a dinner invitation.

Loo or dunny (toilet)

If you are a guest in someone's house for the first time, it is usually polite to ask permission to use their toilet. "May I use your toilet please?" Some people ask "Where's the loo?"

Fair dinkum (honest, the truth)

It can also be used as a question "fair dinkum?" meaning "is it really true?"

To be crook (to be sick) "I was really crook on Monday"

Flat out (really busy) "I was flat out yesterday"

Shout (To buy someone a drink)

At a bar or a pub (publican's house) when a group of friends meet, it is usual for each person to "shout a round", meaning buy everybody a drink. Each person takes a turn at buying a "round". It is also acceptable to say that you do not drink (alcohol) by saying that you are "**teetotaler**". This also means you are not obliged to shout.

Bloke (a man)

Sometimes if you ask for help, you may be told to "see that bloke over there".

How ya goin? (or 'How are you going?') means how are you, or how do you do?

It does NOT mean what form of transport you are taking. Sometimes it can sound like "ow-ya-goin-mate".

Laws in Australia

In Australia, there are many laws to help maintain order and a civil society. If you are unsure what the law is, it is best to ask someone. Knowing some common laws will help you to adapt to your new life in Australia.

Equality

In Australia all people are equal in the eyes of the law and for all other purposes. They have the right to be respected and treated in a fair manner. No person should be treated differently to others because of their:

- Race or ethnicity
- Country of origin
- Marital Status
- Pregnancy
- Disability
- Gender or Sexual preference

This applies widely in relation to employment, education, accommodation, buying goods, access to services such as doctors, banks and hotels, and detention or arrest by authorities.

Source: <http://www.immi.gov.au>

Religious freedom & marriage

As a secular State, Australia has no official or state religion. All Australians are free to practice any religion or to have no religion at all. The State does not endorse the doctrine of any religion.

Similarly, laws based on religious principles are not recognised and have no legal status in Australia. Religious and cultural practices must exist within existing Australian laws. For example, the laws in states and territories prohibit practices involving genital mutilation and violence in the home.

Violence

Committing an act of violence against another person is against the law in Australia. It is a criminal offence and the penalties are severe. Domestic violence is one of the most common forms of abuse and assault in Australia. It occurs in all cultures and communities. It occurs when one person abuses power and uses fear to control another person, within a family or other intimate relationship. This can include physical violence, as well as intimidation and emotional abuse.

Child abuse

Children are also protected by the law from abuse or violence, including at home and at school. Child abuse is a very serious matter in Australia. In some cases, a child suffering from abuse can be taken away from their family by the government for their protection. If your child is suffering from abuse, or you suspect a child is suffering from abuse, under the law, you must report it.

Bullying at school

Bullying is another form of abuse which can affect children at school. Bullying can affect a child's confidence & their education. Bullying can take many forms, commonly it may include verbal harassment and/or physical assault. If your child is being bullied at school you should report the matter to the teacher or the school principal. Your child is entitled to protection from bullying. Schools and education authorities have a responsibility to ensure the welfare of your child on school property during school hours.

Noise

There are laws that protect Australians from too much noise. The regulations vary across the states and territories, and also depend on whether the area is zoned for commercial, industrial or residential use. In general, neighbours are tolerant of occasional noise, but if it is frequent, excessively loud, or occurs at night, a complaint may be made to the local council, the state or territory environment authority, or the police.

Smoking and drinking

Smoking is banned in many places in Australia, including all airports, government offices, health clinics, and workplaces. Smoking in restaurants and shopping centres is also banned in all states and territories. Non-smoking areas are often notified with a 'No Smoking' sign.

It is against the law for a shop or stall to sell tobacco products to a minor (someone under 18 years old). Selling or giving tobacco to a minor is also prohibited in all states and territories.

It is against the law for any person to sell or give alcohol to a minor. It is also an offence for a minor to have alcohol in their possession except on private property (such as a home). Drinking and possession of alcohol is also banned in some public areas and events.

Animals

Australia has laws to protect animals from cruelty or neglect including suffering, injury, and distress. There are local laws on what forms of domestic animal can be kept at home. In most council areas, household pets like dogs and cats need to be registered. For further information contact your local council.

Australian celebrations and holidays

While modern Australia is a multicultural society, from the time of European settlement it adopted predominantly Christian traditions. Like many other western countries, Christmas and Easter are major national public holidays.

Public holidays

Most Australian states and territories observe the recognised national public holidays. Some States also have additional public holidays during the year such as Labour Day and the Queen's Birthday. Offices and banks are usually closed on public holidays. In larger cities most shops, restaurants, and public transport continue to operate. In smaller towns most businesses, including shops and restaurants, are closed on public holidays.

Unique Australian holidays

There are also a number of specific holidays/celebrations which are uniquely Australian.

Australia Day, January 26

One of the biggest days of celebration in Australia is Australia's National Day, appropriately called 'Australia Day'. The day marks the founding of the first European settlement in Australia. The day is marked by flag raising, citizenship ceremonies, and BBQs. Some members of the Indigenous communities mark the day as a day of mourning, or of the survival of Indigenous culture.

ANZAC Day, April 25

ANZAC Day commemorates the day the Australian & New Zealand Army Corps landed at Gallipoli in Turkey in 1915. ANZAC day is a national public holiday and is marked by remembrance for those who served in the Australian and Allied armed forces, wreath laying, and military veteran parades.

Melbourne Cup Day

Cup Day, held on the first Tuesday of November, is a world famous horse race. Most Australians, whether at work, school or home, stop to watch the race on television. It is a public holiday in metropolitan Melbourne. Elsewhere in Australia many people have a lunch to celebrate the Melbourne Cup.

Community and Support Services in Melbourne

Health and Emergency Services

In the event of an emergency phone 000 (Australia-wide) for police, ambulance and/or fire brigade.

For a guide to other health and wellbeing services in Melbourne, please refer to AVETA's Community Services in Melbourne Booklet.

Helping Out

Helping Out provides you with a comprehensive list of free and low cost services available from over 60 organisations in and around the central city.

The agencies listed here offer many types of support, including free and cheap food, accommodation, health services, drug and alcohol services, counselling, showers, laundries, legal advice as well as emergency and crisis services.

Some agencies offer many of these services while others offer only specific services.

For more information visit

www.Melbourne.vic.gov.au/info.cfm