



PAPUA NEW GUINEA IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP SERVICE AUTHORITY
Office of the Chief Migration Officer

PUBLIC NOTICE

BAN OF VISA ON ARRIVAL FACILITY FOR AUSTRALIAN PASSPORT HOLDERS

The National Executive Council in December 2013 decided to ban Australian's from the PNG Visa on Arrival Facility.

This decision though taken in December last year, was not effected due to the Government's desire to give ample time to the Government of Australia to re-consider its response given to the PNG Ministers at the PNG/Australia Ministerial Forum in Canberra last year, and for Australian citizens who had already confirmed travel arrangements to PNG to undertake confirmed travels.

❖ Australian passport holder(s) means: An Australian citizen in possession of an Ordinary, Official, Diplomatic or other related Travel Document(s) for travel abroad.

After the visit by the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hon Julie Bishop, MP, during which the Prime Minister reiterated PNG's desire for Australia to reciprocate its Visa on Arrival Facility; and the response of maintaining the status quo, the Government's decision to Ban the Visa on Arrival Facility to Australian passport holders will now be enforced.

The ban will come into effect on Saturday, 01 March 2014. This means Australian passport holders will no longer be able to:-

- a) Obtain **Visitor** (all Classes), **Business – i) Short Term Single Entry & ii) Restricted Employment Facility (REF)** visas on arrival at any port of entry in PNG; and
- b) Be granted **Uplift Letters** for issuance of the aforementioned visas on arrival at any port of entry in PNG.

Australian passport holders:

- will be required to obtain these visas at the nearest PNG Overseas Mission/Post or the Australian Missions/Posts abroad where there is no PNG Government representation. PNG's current Missions/Posts in Australia are located in Canberra, Sydney, Brisbane and Cairns.
- visiting PNG on Cruise ships, including flying in to join a Cruise ship or leaving a Cruise ship to catch a flight out of PNG, will not be affected by this ban because they are granted visas electronically without the need for prior application.
- transiting through PNG for less than 8 hours do not require visas, and are to remain within the International Transit Lounges at the Airport(s).

All International operating airlines are instructed not to allow boarding of Australian passport holders to PNG who do not possess a valid visa. Australians uplifted without a valid visa will be repatriated on the next available flight at the expense of the uplifting airline, which may not necessarily be to the port of origin. For instance, an Australian uplifted without a visa from Cairns could be repatriated to Singapore if that was the next available flight at the cost of the uplifting airline.

For further clarification, please contact the PNG Immigration and Citizenship Service Authority on tel. 323 1500, fax. 3255206 or email: clientservice@immigration.gov.pg, and ask for Mrs Julie Maku, Assistant Manager – Client Services.

Authorised by:


Mataio Rabura, ISO
Chief Migration Officer

19 February, 2014