



## **Information on visa application process to attend the 5<sup>th</sup> World Conference of Science Journalists, Melbourne Australia**

The Australian government has advised us that almost all international visitors coming to the conference will require a short business visit visa. For most countries this may take four to six weeks. So apply now.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have a valid visa to enter Australia. We can provide documentation to assist you, but it is your responsibility.

These notes are for general guidance only. Please check with the official Australian websites listed below for current information.

### **New Zealand**

If you are from New Zealand you will not require a visa.

### **Western Europe, North America, and certain other countries**

If you are from most Western European countries, the USA, Canada, Japan, South Korea and certain other countries you can apply online for an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA). In most cases this will cost \$20 and your travel authority will be approved in 30 seconds (they claim).

The website is at <http://www.eta.immi.gov.au/>.

The list of eligible countries is at <http://www.eta.immi.gov.au/ETAAus1En.html>

### **Africa, Central and South America, the Middle East and most Asian countries**

If you are from Africa, Central and South America, the Middle East and most Asian countries<sup>1</sup> you will need to apply for a Business (Short Stay) Visa (Subclass 456). This will cost \$70. You should allow four to six weeks for this process.

In most cases you will need to lodge your application in person or by post with the nearest Australia Visa Office. The process seems to vary from country to country. Some offices allow electronic submission. Check the links below to find out the details for your country.

Before the Visa Office will consider your application they will want evidence that you

- 1) have registered for the conference (including paying the registration fee – unless you are a scholarship recipient)
- 2) have been invited to participate.

Once you have registered we will:

- send you a letter in support of your application. If you are a speaker or scholarship recipient we will include this information.
- send the same information to the Immigration Office in Melbourne.

The more information you can provide about your role in the conference to the Visa Office, the more likely it is that your application will be approved.

There are several websites that can help you.

- For general information visit: <http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/business/456/index.htm>
- For specific information for your country visit <http://www.immi.gov.au/contacts/overseas/index.htm>
- The Department of Immigration also provides a web-based advice service for conference participants at <http://www.immi.gov.au/contacts/forms/iecn/index.htm>

If you are having problems with your visa please let us know as soon as possible. We can't promise to solve your problems but we will do what we can to help.

If you are having problems please email our conference manager – Jacqui Muir - [jacqui@wsm.com.au](mailto:jacqui@wsm.com.au). Please also copy me: [niall@scienceinmelbourne2007.org](mailto:niall@scienceinmelbourne2007.org).

Niall Byrne



Conference Director

February 2007

Travellers holding the following passports may apply for an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) online:

- |                 |                 |                            |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| ▪ Andorra       | ▪ Iceland       | ▪ Portugal                 |
| ▪ Austria       | ▪ Ireland       | ▪ San Marino               |
| ▪ Belgium       | ▪ Italy         | ▪ Singapore                |
| ▪ Brunei        | ▪ Japan         | ▪ South Korea              |
| ▪ Canada        | ▪ Liechtenstein | ▪ Spain                    |
| ▪ Denmark       | ▪ Luxembourg    | ▪ Sweden                   |
| ▪ Finland       | ▪ Malaysia      | ▪ Switzerland              |
| ▪ France        | ▪ Malta         | ▪ United Kingdom           |
| ▪ Germany       | ▪ Monaco        | ▪ United States Of America |
| ▪ Greece        | ▪ Netherlands   | ▪ Vatican City             |
| ▪ Hong Kong SAR | ▪ Norway        |                            |