

Before You Arrive in South Australia

Glimmer of Hope - Newcomer's Checklist

Before You Travel

- Translate all important documents (e.g. passports, birth/marriage certificates, academic transcripts)
- Arrange short-term accommodation for your first 2-4 weeks in South Australia
- Prepare children's school documents and immunisation records
- Research potential long-term rental suburbs and housing prices
- Make digital copies of all documents and store them securely
- Connect with Glimmer of Hope or local community members before arriving to get advice or contacts for rental agents
- Prepare printed copies of essential records (rental references, proof of income, ID documents)

Finding Housing

- Explore family-friendly suburbs such as Campbelltown, Paradise, Klemzig, Morphett Vale, Noarlunga, Seaford
- Avoid areas far from public transport, schools, or community support when new to SA
- Use websites like realestate.com.au or domain.com.au to search for housing
- Housing Costs (Approx.):
 - 2-bedroom unit: \$350-\$450/week
 - 3-bedroom house: \$450-\$600/week
 - 4-bedroom house: \$550-\$700/week
- Be prepared to pay a bond (usually 4 weeks rent) and 2 weeks rent in advance

Education & Schools

- Visit education.sa.gov.au to find local schools
- Public schools are generally free or low-cost for eligible visa holders
- EAL (English as an Additional Language) support is available in many schools
- School Costs:
 - Uniforms: \$100-\$300
 - Supplies/stationery: \$50-\$100

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- School excursions/activities: \$100-\$300/year

Community & Support

- Connect with Glimmer of Hope for cultural and social support
- Reach out to AFOPA, ARA, and Multicultural SA for services and guidance
- Join local community WhatsApp or Facebook groups for real-time tips
- Visit local mosques, cultural centres, or council events to meet people

Shopping & Essentials

- Large supermarkets: Coles, Woolworths, Aldi
- Discount/bulk stores: Costco (membership needed), Cheap as Chips, Reject Shop
- Buy second-hand furniture and appliances from Facebook Marketplace or Salvos

After You Arrive: Documents & Setup

- Apply for a Medicare card (health care access)
- Apply for a Tax File Number (TFN) for employment
- Set up a bank account in Australia (major banks include NAB, Commonwealth, ANZ, Westpac)
- Create a MyGov account and link services (Medicare, ATO, Centrelink)
- Apply for Centrelink if eligible (family tax benefit, rent assistance, etc.)

Utilities & Living Expenses

- Groceries for a family of 4: approx. \$130-\$200/week depending on preferences
- Electricity, gas, water: \$100-\$160/month (varies by usage and size of home)
- Internet/mobile plan: \$60-\$80/month
- Public transport (MetroCard): \$50-\$100/month per adult
- Look out for local markets and discount stores for budget-friendly options

Health & Wellbeing

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- Find a nearby GP clinic that accepts Medicare
- Explore community health programs (some councils offer free fitness sessions)
- Look for mental health support if needed (e.g., Headspace, Beyond Blue)

Checklist Summary - What to Have Ready

- [] Passports and valid visas
- [] Digital and printed copies of important documents
- [] Accommodation address for initial stay
- [] Australian SIM card and mobile data plan
- [] Contact list of local support organisations
- [] Medicare, TFN, and bank account setup confirmation
- [] School enrolment documents (if applicable)