

2021 Australian Top Tourism Town and Small Tourism Town Awards

ATIC is to announce the inaugural winners of the 2021 Australian Top Tourism Town and Small Tourism Town at a special event to be held at Parliament House in Canberra on 2 September 2021.

For an industry that has faced insurmountable challenges over the past 18 months, from widespread bushfires to the global pandemic, the Top Tourism Town awards have provided a welcome reminder to our tourism community on how resilient, strong and inspiring they are.

The event itself will focus on regional tourism, its development, growth and sustainability. We look forward to your attendance.

Further details and invitation information, contact:

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Working Holiday Maker Visa Changes

The Working Holiday Maker Program has received fresh impetus from two recent Federal Government announcements.

Under the future Australia - United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement, Working Holiday Visa makers in the UK will get expanded rights. They will be able to stay for three years with an increased cut off age of 35.

The Federal Minister for Immigration announced upcoming changes to the Program will provide more support to the tourism and hospitality sectors.

WHM visa holders working in the tourism and hospitality sectors in Northern, remote and very remote areas of Australia will be able to count this as specified work, making them eligible for a second or third WHM visa.

This option will be available to WHMs who lodge their applications from March 2022 and will take into account work undertaken in the tourism and hospitality sectors in these areas from today.

As announced in October 2020, WHMs offshore who were unable to come to Australia or had to leave early because of COVID-19 will be able to apply for a replacement visa with nil Visa Application Charge (VAC) from 1 July 2021.

More details:

[New free trade agreement to deliver jobs and business opportunities in Australia and the United Kingdom | Prime Minister of Australia \(pm.gov.au\)](#)

[Working Holiday Maker Visa maker visa changes helping COVID-19 recovery \(homeaffairs.gov.au\)](#)

Federal Government Updates

National Cabinet

- [Update & National Plan to transition Australia's national COVID-19 response](#)
- [National Plan to transition Australia's National COVID-19 Response - July 2021](#)

Federal Updates

- [Tourism Research Australia - March 2021 Quarter - National Visitor Survey](#)
- [Tourism Research Australia - March 2021 Monthly Snapshot](#)
- [Tourism Research Australia - March 2021 Quarter - International Visitor Survey](#)
- [Tourism Satellite Accounts March 2021 quarter](#)
- [Tourism Research Australia- Monthly Domestic update](#)
- [Domestic Aviation Activity \(BITRE\) - April 2021](#)
- [International Aviation Activity \(BITRE\) - April 2021](#)
- [ABS - International Visitor Arrivals - May 2021 \(Provisional\)](#)
- [Reforms to Export Finance Australia - Ministerial announcement](#)
- [Australia and UK - New free trade agreement update - Ministerial announcement](#)
- [Support for Australian Tourism Exchange - Tourism Minister](#)

[See the latest from Tourism Australia here](#)

Australian Government

National Plan to transition Australia's National COVID-19 Response

National Cabinet agreed to formulate a national plan to transition Australia's National COVID-19 Response from its current pre-vaccination settings, focussing on continued suppression of community transmission, to post-vaccination settings focussed on prevention of serious illness, hospitalisation and fatality, and the public health management of other infectious diseases

Phases triggered by the achievement of vaccination thresholds expressed as a percentage of the eligible population (18+), based on the scientific modelling conducted for the COVID-19 Risk Analysis and Response Task Force

A. Current Phase: Vaccinate, Prepare and Pilot	B. Post Vaccination Phase	C. Consolidation Phase	D. Final Phase
<p>Continue to suppress the virus for the purpose of minimising community transmission</p> <p>Measures may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the national vaccination plan to offer every Australian an opportunity to be vaccinated with the necessary doses of the relevant vaccine as soon as possible. Temporarily reduce commercial inbound passenger arrivals to all major ports by 50% from current caps by 14 July to reduce the pressure on quarantine facilities, due to the increased rate of the Delta strain of the virus. Lock downs to be used only as a last resort. Commonwealth to facilitate increased commercial flights to increase international repatriations to Darwin for quarantine at the National Residence Facility at Howard Springs. Commonwealth to extend additional support through the International Freight Assistance Mechanism to ensure maintenance of essential freight supply lines supported by the reduction of commercial caps at international airports. Trial and pilot the introduction of alternative quarantine options, including home quarantine for returning vaccinated travellers. Expand commercial trials for limited entry of student and economic visa holders. Reopen and adapt the existing digital Medicare Vaccination Certificate (automatically generated for every vaccination registered on ABIS). Establish digital vaccination authentication at international borders. Prepare vaccine booster programme, and Undertake a further review of the national host quarantine network. 	<p>Seek to minimise serious illness, hospitalisation and fatality as a result of COVID-19</p> <p>Measures may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ease restrictions on vaccinated residents - such as lock downs and border controls. Lock downs only in extreme circumstances to prevent escalating hospitalisation and fatality. Restore inbound passenger caps at previous levels for unaccompanied returning travellers and larger caps for vaccinated returning travellers. Allow capped entry of student and economic visa holders subject to quarantine arrangements and availability. Introduce new reduced quarantine arrangements for vaccinated residents, and Phase implement Vaccine booster programme (depending on timing). 	<p>Manage COVID-19 consistent with public health management of other infectious diseases</p> <p>Measures may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No lock downs. Continue vaccine booster programme. Empty vaccinated residents from all domestic restrictions. Abolish caps on returning vaccinated travellers. Allow increased capped entry of student, economic, and humanitarian visa holders. Lift all restrictions on outbound travel for vaccinated persons, and Extend travel bubble for unvaccinated travel to new candidate countries (Singapore, Pacific). 	<p>Manage COVID-19 consistent with public health management of other infectious diseases</p> <p>Measures may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow uncapped inbound arrivals for all vaccinated persons, without quarantine, and Allow uncapped arrivals of non-vaccinated travellers subject to preflight and on arrival testing.

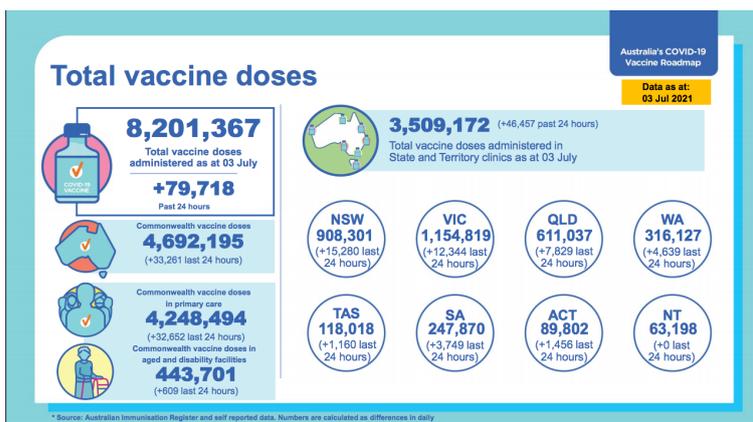
The COVID-19 Risk Analysis and Response Taskforce's report will be available once finalised at: pmc.gov.au

Reimagining the Visitor Economy

ATIC and respective State and Territory TICs have proactively participated in forums and 1:1 sessions with Members of the Expert Panel in the 'Reimagining the Visitor Economy' engagement process, being overseen by Austrade.

ATIC made a submission which can be viewed [here](#).

After the closure of submissions, Austrade has produced [this overview](#) of Australia's tourism and visitor economy.



Federal Government COVID-19 Update

- [COVID-19: Top 3 Questions on AstraZeneca Vaccine](#)
- [Latest information from the Prime Minister on COVID-19 Vaccine rollout](#)
- [COVID Vaccination Allocations Horizons](#)

ATIC Communications

- [ATIC Member and Industry Report - Edition 18](#)