



Emergency: is your passport ready to go?

Lately there has been an increase in distressed emails and phone calls from Dutch citizens who need to travel to the Netherlands from Australia for urgent reasons, e.g. illness or death of friends or family.

Unfortunately, often only then people realise their passport has expired or is about to expire. It brings a lot of extra stress to an already emotional situation. Therefore, it is strongly recommended to **renew your passport six months before it expires** so, that in case of emergency, you are ready to travel without having to go through the delay of requiring valid travel documents. Be aware that if you travel through Asia: most Asian countries require your passport to be valid for at least six months after returning from your journey (also if you just have a transit at the airport). For travelling through Dubai or Abu Dhabi your

passport has to be valid for at least three months after returning from your journey. A new passport will be valid for ten years.

Your passport has expired or is missing but you need to travel NOW?

A regular passport application is sent to the Netherlands for processing and printing and takes about 4-5 weeks before it arrives in Sydney. There is a 'fast track' option that takes about 2 weeks for an extra cost of \$68.55 (as per current exchange rate) allowing for courier costs to bring the passport to Sydney as soon as possible. If the emergency does not allow you that much time, e.g. because of a death in the family, you can apply for a so called 'laissez passer' (literally: let him pass!), a hand written emergency travel document (\$64.52 as per current exchange rate).

This document will only allow you to travel to the Netherlands via Singapore, Hong Kong or Kuala Lumpur. Other countries will not accept the 'laissez passer'. It takes 1 to 2 days to issue a 'laissez-passer' because approval is required from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague.

How to prove legal residence in Australia?

When you apply for a new passport you have to submit proof of legal residence in Australia. **Australian permanent residents or temporary residents** can prove they have not become an Australian citizen by obtaining a free 'Visa Entitlement Verification Online' (VEVO) on the [website](#) of the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship. In case you have **both Australian and Dutch nationality** you will be asked how you became an

nationally, you will be asked how you became an Australian citizen. An adult Dutch citizen, who voluntarily acquires another nationality through naturalisation, will automatically lose the Dutch nationality on the day of naturalisation.

However, the amended Nationality Act that came into effect on 1 April 2003, introduced three exceptions under which an adult would retain the Dutch nationality:

- you were born in Australia; and/or
- you lived in Australia for five consecutive years before you turned 18; and/or
- at the time of your naturalisation you were married to an Australian citizen.

In either case you will be asked to submit additional documents for your passport and/or ID card application.

Please check [this document](#) for the additional requirements.

Please visit [our website](#) to make an appointment for a passport application.

You can find a checklist of required documents [here](#).

For information and emergency support, 7 days a week 24 hours a day, please call 02 387 6644 (local tariff) and you will be transferred to the consular helpdesk of The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague.