

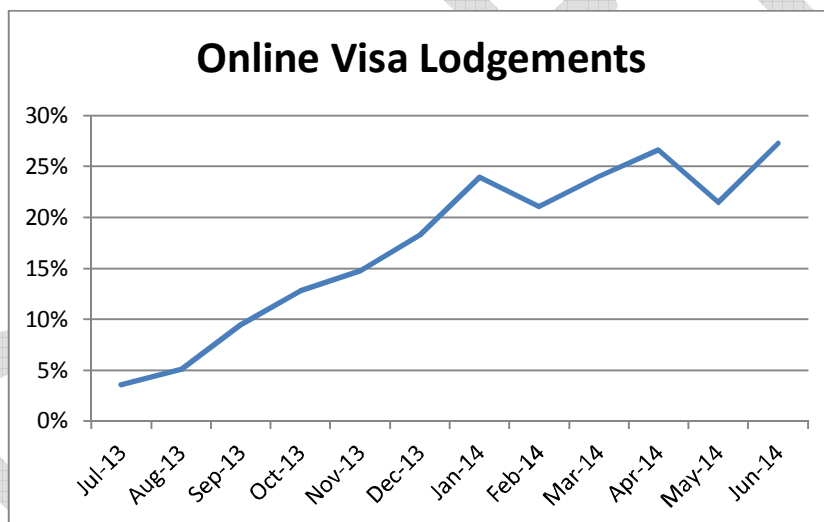


# AUSTRALIAN VISA FACT SHEET



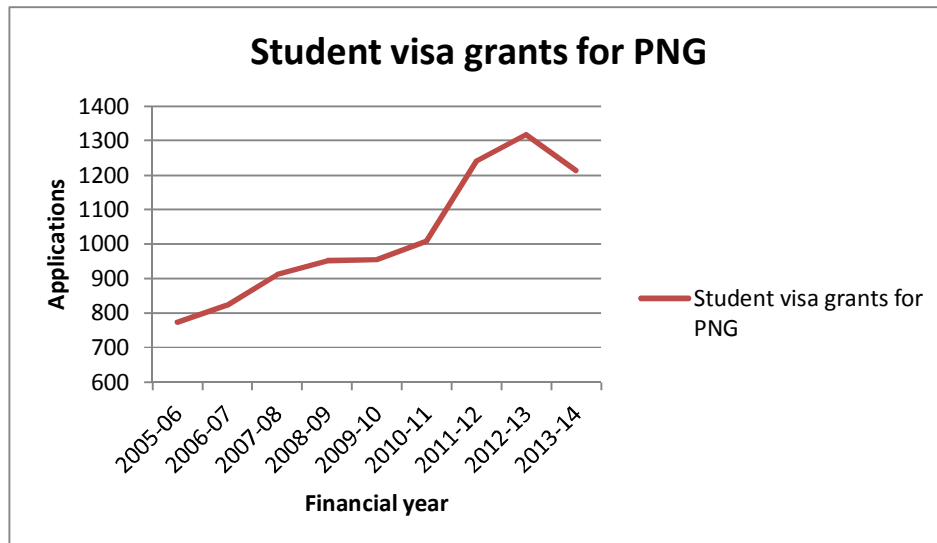
- **It is easier and quicker than ever before for PNG citizens to apply for a visa to travel to Australia**

- ✓ After being introduced just over one year ago, on-line visa applications now represent almost one third of visitor visa lodgements made in PNG. This is an impressive and encouraging take up of this new and convenient service.



- ✓ on-line visa applications can be lodged by any person or organisation on behalf of the applicant, making this new on-line service handy and available for those who do not have ready access to the internet.
- ✓ processing times for complete applications lodged on-line average 7 days or less, facilitating ease of movement for all visitors including tourists and business people.
- ✓ the PNG online visitor visa application website is:  
<http://www.immi.gov.au/visas/png/>
- ✓ reduction in paper work for people who are regular visitors to Australia and a more flexible approach to the documentation requirements
  - first time travellers are asked for evidence to show how they will support their visit to Australia

- this evidence can be from a variety of sources, including letters from employers, and invitation from host organisations or family in Australia
  - no requirement for biometric data or interviews – many other countries require this.
  - ✓ no visa required for PNG passport holders who transit through Australia for less than 8 hours – citizens from more than 120 countries do not have such visa free transit
  - ✓ priority entry processing upon arrival for APEC business travel card holders.
  - ✓ priority passenger lane access to Australian airports in Cairns and Brisbane facilitates quick entry to Australia – these arrangements have been in place since 1 September 2013 and also apply to Australian and New Zealand passport holders.
- Student Visa applications remain strong with over 1200 student visas granted to PNG Citizens last financial year.



- **Australia is assisting PNG to strengthen its border management systems including visa processing**
  - ✓ As PNG strengthens the integrity of its border systems, this will facilitate further advances in Australia's visa arrangements for PNG citizens.
  - ✓ Australia looks to PNG to provide effective visa services for Australians to underpin the smooth flow of business people and tourists to PNG, such as through an on-line system.
- **Australia does not have a visa on arrival system for any country but it does not take a long time to obtain a visa for Australia**
  - ✓ for visitors, we have reduced our advertised turnaround time for a visa from 30 days to 10 working days and for most applicants it is often less than this
  - ✓ approximately 95% of applicants are granted a visa
  - ✓ from July 2013 to June 2014, more than 14,000 visitor visas were granted to PNG citizens by the Port Moresby Office.
  - ✓ delays are usually due to clients lodging incomplete applications or where medical examinations are required, for example chest examinations are required in certain circumstances given PNG's high tuberculosis rate.
- **The Pacific Seasonal Worker Program is strengthening economic links between Australia and PNG**
  - ✓ there is much potential for many more Papua New Guineans to participate in this program.
- **Australia supports increased exchange between the young people of PNG and Australia**
  - ✓ Australia is ready to welcome 100 young Papua New Guineans (per year) to visit and work in Australia as part of the **Work and Holiday Program**
- **The Australian High Commission in Port Moresby has dedicated immigration officials to service PNG citizens**
  - ✓ less than half of Australia's diplomatic missions have a dedicated immigration team.
  - ✓ Please visit the Australian High Commission website at <http://png.embassy.gov.au/pmsb/Visas.html>
  - ✓ the site provides key information on how to apply for a visa and what documents clients should provide
  - ✓ After lodging an application, any inquiries should be referred to:  
Immigration.port-moresby@dfat.gov.au
- **Australia continues to explore ways to further enhance opportunities for PNG citizens to visit, study and work in Australia.**

Australian High Commission  
 Port Moresby  
 July 2014