



Staying connected

Staying connected with your community is an important way to help you settle in Australia. Connecting with social and community groups in Australia provides important networks with people in your area. Feeling connected with your friends and family overseas is also an important part of feeling happy in Australia.

Community and social clubs

Each region in Australia offers a variety of migrant services that provide support. There are also community organisations, sporting associations and social groups where you can meet other people, and have new experiences or continue old interests.

Libraries

Public libraries often have reading material in many languages for you to borrow or read at the library. Most public libraries also have free internet access and computers that you can use.

TV and radio

The Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) offers TV and radio news in many community languages.

Phones

Phone calls can be made on landlines or on mobile phones. Local area calls are the cheapest. Long distance and overseas calls can be expensive. Special phone cards are sold by some shops, such as newsagents and minimarkets, and they can be used for cheaper overseas phone calls.

Landline telephone services can be connected to your home. There are many companies that offer telephone services. You will usually pay a connection fee and then they will bill you monthly for the calls you make from that phone.

Mobile phones are very convenient to use but can be very expensive. Mobile phones are available on either plans or pre-paid. Pre-paid options are good when you need to keep a limit on how much you spend on your phone calls. With a pre-paid mobile phone you pay in advance and when the credit runs out you cannot make calls until you buy more credit. Pre-paid plans are good for budgeting as you never spend more than you can afford.

If you choose a phone plan, you have to sign a contract and pay a set amount every month. Plans usually have a set amount of calls you can make without any additional costs, but if you make more calls than your plan provides you must pay additional fees.



Mail

You can post letters and parcels to any address in Australia and most overseas locations. You can buy stamps at post offices. The cost of stamps for overseas locations is more expensive than stamps for Australian addresses.

Internet

The internet is another useful way to stay connected. To use the internet at home you need to have a computer and be connected to the internet through an Internet Service Provider (ISP). You can also access the internet on smart phones and tablets, which are very convenient to use but can be very expensive. There are many ISPs and they all have different monthly payment plans. It is best to talk to a few different providers to see which one is best and most economical for you.

If you do not have a computer or are not connected to the internet from home then you can use a computer at your local library for free. If you have not used a computer before or do not feel confident using computers then your local library may have courses to help you learn about computers and the internet.



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

Delivered by International Organization
for Migration on behalf of the Australian
Department of Social Services

