

## Health Undertakings for migrants & refugees arriving in NSW



NSW Refugee Health Service

Permanent visa applicants, and some temporary visitors, must undergo health checks overseas before receiving their visa<sup>1</sup>. Applicants for a permanent visa have a medical examination, a chest x-ray if 11 years of age or older to exclude active tuberculosis (TB), and an HIV test if 15 years of age or older. From late 2015, children aged 2-10 years from higher prevalence TB countries are required to undergo testing for *latent* TB infection (LTBI).

A person must be free from active tuberculosis (TB) to meet the health requirement for a relevant visa. Anyone found to have active TB requires treatment before the visa can be granted.

In some instances, a visa is granted but there is a requirement for a health issue to be followed up after arrival in Australia. The person signs a form called a **Health Undertaking** (or 815 Form), which instructs them to contact the Health Undertaking Service after arrival.

The most common condition needing follow-up is old (inactive) or treated TB, or some other abnormality found on the person's chest x-ray. Usually this follow-up is routine, involving one or two visits to the nearest Chest Clinic. There is no charge for this.

Latent TB infection in children also generates a Health Undertaking and follow-up after arrival.

For certain other conditions detected overseas (e.g. hepatitis B), a Health Undertaking is also created; in these cases, information and advice will be sent to the person by NSW Health. This advice will usually suggest follow-up by a General Practitioner or other suitable service.

People arriving on a Health Undertaking should have a copy of their 815 Form. The process is:

- The person, or someone on their behalf, must contact the **Health Undertaking Service** (at BUPA Medical Visa Services) within 4 weeks of arrival.
- The preferred method of contact is by email: [hus@bupamvs.com.au](mailto:hus@bupamvs.com.au)
- Individuals can also be registered by telephoning BUPA on **1300 794 919** (a free call).
- The following details should be provided: **Entrant's name, HAP ID** (located at top right of their 815 form), **date of birth, current address, phone number** and **email contact** (personal, or settlement worker's/visa processing officer's email). If the person has **any plans to depart the country in the next 6 months**, give date of departure). If an **interpreter** is needed for a health appointment, give the **language**.
- The client will receive a letter confirming the contact, and stating that they must notify any change of address.
- For people on a TB-related Undertaking, the Health Undertaking Service will send the person's medical documents to NSW TB Services, for distribution to the appropriate clinic.
- The client will receive a Chest Clinic appointment by mail. This may take several weeks, depending on clinic waiting lists.
- Those with a Health Undertaking for another condition (e.g. hepatitis B) will receive information by mail. They should take these documents to a local doctor of their choice.

If a person on a Health Undertaking changes their address, they must notify the Health Undertaking Service ([hus@bupamvs.com.au](mailto:hus@bupamvs.com.au) or 1300 794 919) or the clinic at which they have an appointment.

See over for a list of **Chest Clinics** in NSW.

1. Fact Sheet - Health requirement. Available at: <http://www.border.gov.au/about/corporate/information/fact-sheets/22health>

## NSW Tuberculosis / Chest Clinics

<u>Metropolitan Clinics</u>		<u>Telephone</u>
<b>South Western Sydney</b>	<b>Liverpool Hospital</b>	<b>8738 4888</b>
<b>Sydney</b>	<b>Canterbury Hospital</b>	<b>9787 0946</b>
	<b>Concord Hospital</b>	<b>9767 5675</b>
	<b>Royal Prince Alfred Hospital</b>	<b>9515 8615</b>
<b>Northern Sydney</b>	<b>Hornsby Hospital</b>	<b>9477 9317</b>
	<b>Manly Hospital</b>	<b>9976 9542</b>
	<b>Royal North Shore Hospital</b>	<b>9463 1360</b>
<b>Central Coast</b>	<b>Gosford Hospital</b>	<b>4320 3388</b>
<b>South Eastern Sydney</b>	<b>Prince of Wales Hospital</b>	<b>9382 4643</b>
	<b>St George Hospital</b>	<b>9113 2430</b>
	<b>St Vincent's Hospital</b>	<b>8382 3150</b>
	<b>Sydney Hospital</b>	<b>9382 7535</b>
<b>Illawarra Shoalhaven</b>	<b>Wollongong Hospital</b>	<b>4253 4138</b>
<b>Western Sydney</b>	<b>Parramatta Health Services</b>	<b>9843 3110</b>
	<b>Children's Hospital Westmead</b>	<b>9845 2578</b>
<b>Nepean Blue Mountains</b>	<b>Nepean Hospital</b>	<b>4734 2536</b>
 <u>Rural Clinics:</u>		
<b>Hunter New England</b>	<b>John Hunter Hospital</b>	<b>4921 3372</b>
	<b>Taree Community Health Centre</b>	<b>6592 9625</b>
	<b>Tamworth Base Hospital</b>	<b>6767 7786</b>
<b>Northern NSW</b>	<b>Lismore Base Hospital</b>	<b>6620 2280</b>
<b>Mid North Coast</b>	<b>Coffs Harbour Health Campus</b>	<b>6656 7855</b>
<b>Southern NSW</b>	<b>Public Health Unit – Goulburn</b>	<b>4824 1858</b>
	<b>Bega Community Health Centre</b>	<b>6492 9620</b>
	<b>Cooma Community Health Centre</b>	<b>6455 3201</b>
	<b>Goulburn Community Health Centre</b>	<b>4827 3913</b>
	<b>Narooma Community Health Centre</b>	<b>4475 7200</b>
	<b>Queanbeyan Community Health Centre</b>	<b>6298 9233</b>
<b>Murrumbidgee</b>	<b>Young Mercy Care Centre</b>	<b>6382 1111</b>
<b>Far West</b>	<b>Broken Hill Public Health Unit</b>	<b>(08) 8080 1510</b>

For information or advice about **non-TB related Health Undertakings** (e.g for hepatitis B) call South Western Sydney Public Health Unit on 8778 0855.