



Regional
Development
Australia
I L L A W A R R A

Illawarra **Migration Settlement** Pack



Contents

Welcome	3
About the Illawarra	5
The first 60 days	6
Registering for Medicare	7
Health insurance options	7
Finding a home	7
Setting up a bank account	8
Registering a tax file number	8
How to pay tax and superannuation	8
Mobile phone services	9
Getting a driver's licence	9
Education	10
Enrolling kids at school	10
Seeking employment	11
Support services	14
Getting around	16
Local Government Councils	17
Emergency services	18
Community events	19



ILLAWARRA

South
Pacific
Ocean

Welcome



Wollongong Harbour

Thank you for choosing the Illawarra as your preferred region. We look forward to welcoming you into the area and hope this information helps with settling into our community. Read more about Settling in Australia here at Smart Move Australia.

www.smartmoveaustralia.gov.au/settling-in-australia

Contact RDA Illawarra

Ph: 02 4258 3612

migration@rdailawarra.com.au

www.rdailawarra.com.au/skilled-migration/

Love for the Illawarra

Here's what others who have made the Illawarra their home are saying:

"I have really been enjoying my stay in Wollongong so far since I moved here last year. It's full of life and at the same time closer to nature"

"We're looking forward to moving to the Illawarra and settling there. Love the place."

"The Illawarra region is a growing and vibrant area filled with an outdoor lifestyle, art, culture, sports and so much more"

"There are lots of industries related to my profession and opportunities available."

"I love living in Wollongong"

"I chose the region closest to Sydney with the highest future growth progression"

About the Illawarra



Port Kembla Beach

The Illawarra Region lies 70 kilometres south of Sydney and is bordered by the Tasman Sea and its magnificent escarpment. This narrow strip of coastal plain is an area of outstanding natural beauty that connects Greater Sydney to the attractions of the Shoalhaven and the NSW South Coast.

Historically, the Illawarra economy has been dominated by coal mining, steelmaking, and heavy manufacturing. Today, those industries still succeed in the Illawarra, but our economic base has broadened to include tourism, education, construction, and health care.

Our proximity to Greater Sydney, beautiful beaches and overall liveability has seen the growth of tourism, and the world-class reputation of the University of Wollongong increasingly attracts students and researchers.

The Illawarra is made up of three local government areas: Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama. The region has the third largest economy in NSW, a deep-water port at Port Kembla that is surrounded by significant employment lands, and a local airport with interstate connections at Shellharbour.

More data on the Illawarra can be found [here](#).

The first 60 days



Shellharbour Marina

The following information is provided to help you settle into the Illawarra in the first 60 days:

- A** Registering for Medicare
- B** Health insurance options
- C** Finding a home
- D** Setting up a bank account
- E** Registering a tax file number
- F** How to pay tax and superannuation
- G** Mobile phone services
- H** Getting a driver's licence
- I** Education
- J** Enrolling kids at school

The first 60 days

A Registering for Medicare

Medicare is Australia's universal health scheme. It is an Australian government program that guarantees all citizens (and some overseas visitors) access to a wide range of health services at little or no cost. To view which visas allow Medicare, refer to this link:

www.servicesaustralia.gov.au

B Health insurance options

If you are unable to access Medicare under your visa scheme, you can register for private health insurance. You can compare private health insurance at the following websites:

- www.privatehealth.gov.au
- www.iselect.com.au
- <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/health/adequate-health-insurance>

C Finding a home

Temporary accommodation

The following websites include serviced apartments, houses, hotels, and caravan parks in the Illawarra:

- www.tripadvisor.com.au
- www.airbnb.com.au
- www.stayz.com.au
- www.booking.com
- www.wotif.com

Renting or purchasing a property

The following websites include properties available for rent and to buy:

www.realestate.com.au
www.domain.com.au



The first 60 days

D Setting up a bank account

To set up a bank account, you will require 100 points of identification, points Information can be found through this link:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/art/Documents/100-point-id-check.pdf>

The following are the major banks in Australia:

- Commonwealth Bank
- Australia and New Zealand Banking Group (ANZ)
- National Australian Bank (NAB)
- Westpac Bank
- IMB Bank has its Head Office in the Illawarra

E Registering a tax file number

A tax file number (TFN) is a 9-digit number provided to you by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). It's a unique reference number that is used as part of your superannuation and tax records. Apply for a tax file number as soon as you can, you will not be able to work until you have one. To register a tax file number, refer to this link:

<https://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Coming-to-Australia-or-going-overseas/Coming-to-Australia/Tax-in-Australia--what-you-need-to-know/#Getataxfilenumber>

F How to pay tax and superannuation

If you are an employee, your employer will normally take your income tax out of your pay and send it to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) on your behalf, throughout the year. More tax information can be found through this link:

<https://www.ato.gov.au/individuals/tax-file-number/apply-for-a-tfn/foreign-passport-holders,-permanent-migrants-and-temporary-visitors---tfn-application/>

Superannuation or super, is a government-mandated system that ensures people can support themselves when they retire. Money from employers or individuals is usually deposited into what's called a super fund, which you can generally select yourself.

More information on superannuation and choosing a super fund can be found through this link:

<https://www.ato.gov.au/general/other-languages/in-detail/information-in-other-languages/your-superannuation-basics/>

The first 60 days

G Mobile phone services

You can purchase a mobile phone service by visiting a local phone provider. Popular mobile phone services in Australia include:

Telstra <https://www.telstra.com.au/>

Optus <https://www.optus.com.au/>

Vodafone <https://www.vodafone.com.au/>

H Getting a driver's licence

Information on driving with an overseas licence in NSW can be found through this link:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/driving-boating-and-transport/driver-and-rider-licences/visiting-or-moving-to-nsw/overseas-and-interstate-visitors>

Information on applying for a NSW driver's licence can be found through this link:

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/guide/getting-nsw-driver-licence>



The first 60 days

1 Education

The University of Wollongong

The University of Wollongong (UOW) is ranked in the top one per cent of universities worldwide. All UOW students have access to a suite of free services, resources and assistance designed to enhance their university experience, and their capacity to achieve their study and career objectives.

<https://www.uow.edu.au/study/international/>

TAFE NSW

TAFE NSW is the leading provider of education and training in Australia. They have a wide variety of classroom and online delivery study options to suit any lifestyle, aspirations and individual circumstances.

<https://www.tafensw.edu.au/>

<https://www.tafensw.edu.au/locations/illawarra>

2 Enrolling kids at school

The Illawarra provides a variety of quality educational facilities for all ages; from early childhood, to primary and high school, right through to higher education.

Early Childhood

Early childhood is generally for children aged from birth to 6 years. Local childcare providers can be found through this link:

<https://www.childcarefinder.gov.au/>

List of child care services:

<https://www.careforkids.com.au/child-care/nsw/wollongong>

Primary Education

Primary school is from Kindergarten to Year 6.

High School

High school is from years 7 to 12.

Public Schools

Government schools (also known as public schools) are free to attend for Australian citizens and permanent residents, however some visa subclasses are also exempt of school fees, refer to this link for fees and the temporary residents program:

<https://www.deinternational.nsw.edu.au/study-options/study-programs/temporary-residents>

Further information about public schools:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools>

To find a local school, refer to this link:

<https://schoolfinder.education.nsw.gov.au/>

Private Schools

Private Schools in Australia can be divided into two categories; private Catholic schools, and independent private schools of other categories. Private schools in Australia receive a subsidy from both federal and state governments, however, they mainly depend on tuition fees.

Private school guide:

<https://privateschoolsguide.com/wollongong-private-schools>

Seeking Employment



We understand that it can be difficult to navigate finding employment and local employers in a new area. We have included the following information to assist in your search and ease the process of seeking employment.

a) Illawarra Skilled Migration Jobs Board Facebook page

Join RDA Illawarra's local Jobs Board Facebook page that connects migrants and employers in the area. This page is here to help migrants find employment, and for employers to advertise opportunities. Join the Facebook group here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/rdaillawarramigrationjobsboard/>

Job vacancy websites

Seek	https://www.seek.com.au
Indeed	https://au.indeed.com
LinkedIn	https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/
Government Jobs	https://iworkfor.nsw.gov.au/jobs-in-illawarra--south-coast

Seeking Employment

b) Employment agencies

An employment agency is a business that helps workers to find employment. Some local agencies in the Illawarra include:

Ability Options	https://abilityoptions.org.au/employment-services/looking-for-a-job/
APM	https://apm.net.au/job-seekers
atWork Australia	https://www.atworkaustralia.com.au/
Butler HR	https://butlerhr.com.au/
Campbell Page	https://campbellpage.com.au/find-work/
Complete Staff Solutions	https://www.completestaff.com.au/for-job-seekers/
Employment Plus	https://www.employmentplus.com.au/job-seekers
HAYS	https://www.hays.com.au/offices/regional-nsw/wollongong
Jobfind	https://jobfind.com.au/job-seekers/
Joblife	https://joblifeemployment.com.au/jobseekers/
Max Employment	https://www.maxsolutions.com.au/find-work
Programmed	https://www.jobs.programmed.com.au/job-seekers/
Randstad	https://www.randstad.com.au/job-seekers/
Sureway	https://www.sureway.com.au/job-seekers/
360 HR	https://360hr.com.au/



Seeking Employment

c) University of Wollongong Careers Central

UOW provide resources, programs, events, and services to help students to establish appropriate career goals and to identify pathways and strategies to achieve those goals.

<https://www.uow.edu.au/student/careers/>

If you're planning to find work in Wollongong, UOW Careers Central is available to help you connect with potential employers and learn the skills you need to successfully navigate the job market.

<https://www.uow.edu.au/study/move/working-in-wollongong/>

d) Workplace rights and entitlements

All people working in Australia have the same basic workplace rights and protections, regardless of citizenship or visa status. Contracts or agreements cannot take away your rights. Under Australian workplace laws, the Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) protects and enforces the rights of visa holders. Further information on work rights can be found through this link: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/working-in-australia/work-rights-and-exploitation>

Fact sheets and information on workplace rights and entitlements for visa holders and migrant workers can be found through this link:

<https://www.fairwork.gov.au/tools-and-resources/fact-sheets/rights-and-obligations/visa-holders-and-migrant-workers-workplace-rights-and-entitlements>

e) Other Resources – Quick Links

Engineers Australia

<https://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/migrants>

Australia Chef Migration

<https://australiachefmigration.com/>

CPA Australia

<https://www.cpaaustralia.com.au/>

Australian Community Workers Association

<https://www.acwa.org.au/workers/jobs/>

Institute of Managers & Leaders

<https://managersandleaders.com.au/>

BlueScope Steel Port Kembla jobs

<https://www.bluescope.com/life-at-bluescope/careers-in-australia/#career-listing>

NSW Health Nursing

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/nursing/Pages/default.aspx>

Support Services

English Language Support

English is the most commonly spoken language in the Illawarra.

The Wollongong City Council website includes a range of links for classes to support reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills for work, education, and everyday communication.

<https://wollongong.nsw.gov.au/book-and-apply/language-services/english-language-support>

Support contacts for families with diverse cultural and language backgrounds

Support contacts for families with diverse cultural and language backgrounds | Family & Community Services (nsw.gov.au)

Adult Migrant English Program (AEMP)

Is a free service to help eligible migrants and humanitarian entrants with low English levels to improve their English language skills and settle into Australia.

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/settling-in-australia>

Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)

The Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) is an interpreting service provided by the Department of Home Affairs for people who do not speak English, and for agencies and businesses that need to communicate with their non-English speaking clients. The TIS National immediate phone interpreting service is available 24 hours a day, every day of the year for the cost of a local call for any person or organisation in Australia who needs an interpreter.

<https://www.tisnational.gov.au/>

Illawarra Multicultural Services (IMS)

Is an independent regional hub for refugees and migrants offering quality support and disability services.

Level 1, 67-69 Market Street
Wollongong NSW 2500
Ph: 02 4229 6855

<https://www.ims.org.au/>

Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra (MCCI)

A non-profit charity that supports people and communities from culturally and linguistically (CALD) diverse backgrounds in the Illawarra.

117 Corrimal Street
Wollongong NSW 2500
Ph: 02 4229 7566

<https://www.mcci.org.au/about-mcci/>

Support Services

Grand Pacific Health

The Community Living Support for Refugees (CLSR) program is delivered by Grand Pacific Health and supports people from refugee backgrounds with on-going mental health challenges. The program focuses on working together to stabilise health symptoms, develop skills and connect with other services/supports to improve wellbeing.

Rawson House,
Level 1, 1 Rawson Street
Wollongong NSW 2500
Ph: 1800 228 987

<https://www.gph.org.au/our-health-services/community-living-supports-for-refugees/>

Settlement Services International (SSI)

SSI is a community organisation and social business that supports newcomers and other Australians to achieve their full potential. They work with all people who have experienced vulnerability, including refugees, people seeking asylum and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, to build capacity and enable them to overcome inequality.

89 Market Street
Wollongong NSW 2500
Ph: 02 8799 6700

<https://www.ssi.org.au/>

University of Wollongong Support Services

All UOW students have access to a suite of free services, resources and assistance designed to enhance their university experience, and their capacity to achieve their study and career objectives.

Northfields Avenue
Wollongong NSW 2522
Ph: 1300 367 869

<https://www.uow.edu.au/student/support-services/>

<https://www.uow.edu.au/student/support-services/support-for-international-students/>

Churches

List of [Illawarra Churches](#)

Ethnic centres

Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW (ECCNSW)

<https://eccnsw.org.au/>

Sports

New South Wales sporting organisations

[Find a sport | NSW Government](#)

Getting Around

Public Transport

Information on buses and trains can be found at <https://transportnsw.info/>

Taxi and rideshare services vary in each town. Taxis and rideshare services can be found through an internet search.

Car

Wollongong is approximately 1.5 hours drive south from Sydney.

The M1 Princes Motorway continues from Wollongong to Shellharbour.

From Shellharbour to Berry it then continues as the A1 Princes Highway.

By Air

The closest major airport is Sydney Airport <https://www.sydneyairport.com.au/>

Transport options to Wollongong from Sydney Airport include car, taxi and rideshare, train, shuttle and rental car.

There is also a regional airport, Shellharbour Airport. Flight information can be found at: <https://www.shellharbourairport.com.au/at-the-airport/flight-information/>

Local Government Councils

Wollongong City Council

41 Burelli Street
Wollongong NSW 2500
Ph: 02 4227 7111

<https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/>

Shellharbour City Council

76 Cygnet Avenue
Shellharbour City Centre NSW 2529
Ph: 02 4221 6111

<https://www.shellharbour.nsw.gov.au/>

Kiama Municipal Council

11 Manning Street
Kiama NSW 2533
Ph: 02 4232 0444

<https://www.kiama.nsw.gov.au/Home>



Emergency Services



Emergency Services

Call Triple Zero (000) telephone service. This service includes police, fire, and ambulance. Public Hospitals in the region are listed here

<https://www.islhd.health.nsw.gov.au/hospitals>

The Wollongong Hospital Emergency Department is open 24 hours seven days a week for all people with serious illness or injury who need urgent medical attention. No referral is necessary.

Wollongong Hospital is the largest of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District's eight hospitals and is the region's tertiary referral hospital, which means it has the capacity to treat specialist and complex cases

Wollongong Hospital

Loftus Street
Wollongong NSW 2500
Ph: 02 4222 5000

<https://www.islhd.health.nsw.gov.au/hospitals/wollongong-hospital>

Community Events

Destination Wollongong

Provides information on upcoming events, things to do, local areas and visitor information.

<https://www.visitwollongong.com.au/traveller-tips/visitor-guide/>

Wollongong Council Events

Includes local events organised by Wollongong Council.

<https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/my-community/events>

Shellharbour Council What's On

Includes local events organised by Shellharbour Council.

<https://www.shellharbour.nsw.gov.au/whats-on>

Kiama Council Events

Includes local events organised by Kiama Council.

<https://www.kiama.nsw.gov.au/Events>





**Regional
Development**
Australia

ILLAWARRA

RDA ILLAWARRA

**Suite 1, Enterprise 1 Building,
Innovation Campus UOW,
Squires Way,
North Wollongong NSW 2500**