



**OCEANIA POLYTECHNIC
INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION**

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PRE-DEPARTURE GUIDE

2024

www.opie.vic.edu.au

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide is designed to provide you with basic information to ease your transition into studying and living in Australia. This is an extraordinary time in your life and you will be feeling nervous and excited which is a very normal way to be feeling. You may already have friends in Melbourne who can help you to settle in, but don't worry if you do not, because you will soon make some.

When you arrive in Melbourne you will receive more detailed information about our services and how we can help you, but we strongly suggest that you check the internet sites listed in this guide to learn more about Australia so that both you and your family are more comfortable with this next exciting step in your future.



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ABOUT

OCEANIA POLYTECHNIC

OPIE is a Registered Training Organization, that meets administrative, delivery, staffing, facility, marketing, financial, quality assurance and assessment standards agreed by the Federal, State and Territory governments in Australia. The National registered Authority body monitors our management and subjects us to regular external audits to verify adherence to these standards.

Oceania Polytechnic Institute of Education (OPIE) exhibits a history of 31 years by specializing in fields of Fine Arts, Architecture, The Built Environment and Design.

It was founded and registered under the Business Name Act (Victoria) in Melbourne on the 29th February 1988 as Oceania Polytechnic. School of Architecture was established in 1988 and began operating in 1989 academic year. In 1990 the School of Design, School of Drafting and the School of Fine Arts were established, 1992 saw the addition of the School of Planning. In 1996, the full business name became Oceanic Polytechnic Institute of Education Pty Ltd.



COVID 19 UPDATE

- Australia is committed to ensuring that any international student, whether arriving or already in Australia, has access to the highest level of information, support and care.
- This requirement is applicable to all travellers, including Australian citizens. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in penalties.
- For further information on travel restrictions for specific countries, please read below and visit the Department of Home Affairs website

TRAVELLING TO VICTORIA

From 15 December 2021, fully vaccinated travellers including students can travel to and from Victoria without needing to apply for a travel exemption.

- Hold a valid visa for one of the eligible visa subclasses.
- Provide proof of their vaccination status or valid medical exemption
- Be fully vaccinated with a completed dosage of a vaccine approved or recognised by Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

USEFUL LINKS

- <https://www.studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/student-arrivals>
- https://ishelp.org.au/?gclid=CjwKCAjw9-KTBhBcEiwAr19ig53ev3TF0MaOt74c_




PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

Make sure you have completed all the following well before your departure for Australia:

- Valid passport and current student visa.
- Air ticket
- Letter(s) of Offer from UIT
- Electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCOE)
- Student Agreement Form
- Certified copies of original results and academic transcripts from your previous education institute
- Receipts of payment (e.g., Tuition fee, OSHC, bank statements)
- Certified copy of IELTS results or other English certificates if appropriate



- Medical records (especially vaccination records) and any medical prescriptions
- Valid driver's licence or other personal identification
- Contact details of your country's embassy in Australia
- Contact details for OPIE Representative
- Legal documents such as marriage or birth certificates in English
- Receipts for valuable goods you bring with you



MAKE COPIES OF ALL IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS TO BRING IN YOUR HAND LUGGAGE

It is important that you have all these documents with you throughout your stay in Australia. We suggest that you put a second copy of each in your suitcase and leave a third copy at home with your family. Oceania Polytechnic Institute of Education has prepared this guide to assist you in smooth transition to Australia. Please read it carefully and make sure you complete all the steps on the pre-departure checklist. If you have any questions,

feel free to contact us by

email : info@opie.vic.edu.au or call : +61 3 9602 5555

PRE – DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Once you have accepted an offer to study at OPIE you are ready to start your journey to Melbourne, Australia. Before you arrive in Melbourne, Australia, there are many things to consider. So, we have put together this pre-departure kit containing important general information and Australian Government requirements for our international students.

BEFORE ARRIVING IN AUSTRALIA

The ESOS Act

The Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 (the ESOS Act) and related laws set out the requirements for providers who deliver education services to international students on a student visa. These laws protect international students and also help ensure students meet student visa conditions for attending classes and making satisfactory progress in their studies while in Australia. Information on the legislative instrument can be found by visiting: <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2018C00210>

The National Code

The National Code of Practice for Registration Authorities and Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students (the National Code 2018) is a set of nationally consistent standards that governs the protection of overseas students and delivery of courses to those students by providers registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS). Only CRICOS courses can be offered to international students studying in Australia on a student visa. The National Code provides 11 nationally consistent standards for the professional conduct of education providers and the registration of their courses on CRICOS.

MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON

<https://internationaleducation.gov.au/Regulatory-Information/-Pages/National-Code-2018-Factsheets-.aspx>

The Tuition Protection Service (TPS) is an initiative of the Australian Government to assist international students whose education providers are unable to fully deliver their course of study. The TPS ensures that international students are able to either:

- complete their studies in another course or
- with another education provider or receive a refund of their unspent tuition fees.

Australia has a well-established international education sector with over 1200 education providers delivering a high quality education to international students. For many years now Australia has been a world leader in protecting the tuition fees of international students studying in Australia on a student visa. Recent changes to the Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act have further strengthened protections for international students through the introduction of the Tuition Protection Service (TPS). In the unlikely event your education provider is unable to deliver a course you have paid for and does not meet their obligations to either offer you an alternative course that you accept or pay you a refund of your unspent prepaid tuition fees (this is called a provider's 'default obligations'), the TPS will assist you in finding an alternative course or to get a refund if a suitable alternative is not found.

<https://tps.gov.au/Home/NotLoggedIn>





LIVING IN AUSTRALIA

Australia is a land of contrasts – sweeping golden beaches, coral reefs rich with marine life, tropical rainforests, mountain ranges, vast grazing lands and sparse deserts. One of the oldest continents, Australia is the only country to occupy an entire continent. As Australia is surrounded by the Indian and Pacific Ocean, Australia is home to many animals and plants that are unique to its ecosystem.

Melbourne is Victoria's capital city and the business, administrative, cultural and recreational hub of the state. The entire Greater Melbourne area covers 9992.5 km² and has a population of around 4.5 million. The City of Melbourne municipality covers

37.7 km² and has a residential population of over 148,000 (as of 2016). It is made up of the city centre and a number of inner suburbs, each with its own distinctive character and with different businesses, dwellings and communities living and working there.



POINTS ABOUT AUSTRALIA

- Australia is itself an island continent and the sixth largest country in the world.
- Australia has six states: New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, and Tasmania.
- It has two mainland territories: Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.
- Australia's capital is Canberra.
- The weather is temperate for most of Australia. The northern parts of the country experience warmer weather, while temperatures in the southern states are relatively cool, but not harshly cold.
- Australia's first inhabitants were the Aboriginal people who migrated here some 60,000 years ago. They have a rich culture closely connected to nature.



- Migrants first arrived in Australia in 1788.
- Football and cricket are popular sports.
- Australia's colours are green and gold.
- Australia prides in its multiculturalism with people coming from over 200 countries. This is reflected in its tolerance for people, its various cuisines, and its diverse lifestyles and cultures. Australia's multi-cultural society is recognized for its sound integration of different values, beliefs and practices from countries all over the globe.



THE PEOPLE OF MELBOURNE

The City of Melbourne's population is made up of many groups of people of all ages and from many different cultures. Residents include young professionals, international students and older couples looking to enjoy everything the city has to offer.

On a typical weekday, approximately 903,000 individuals traverse the city's streets, while Melbourne welcomes over a million international visitors annually. For further insights into the residents and daily population trends of Melbourne, explore the resources on City residents and Daily population estimates and forecasts.

MELBOURNE AND GOVERNMENT

The City of Melbourne as a council (Melbourne City Council) oversees the municipal area that includes Melbourne's city centre and several inner suburbs. As a capital-city council, it also speaks on behalf of Melbourne in local, national and international forums.

The City of Melbourne works with other local councils and the Victorian Government to ensure that Melbourne is one of the safest, healthiest and cleanest cities in the world. It supports Melbourne's position as Australia's pre-eminent centre for arts and culture, education, dining and shopping.

The City of Melbourne's seven neighbouring councils are Hobsons Bay, Port Phillip, Stonnington, Yarra, Moreland, Moonee Valley and Maribyrnong. To find out more about other councils, see the Victorian Government's Guide to councils.



LOCATION

The City of Melbourne municipality is located at latitude 37 degrees 49 minutes south and longitude 144 degrees 58 minutes east on the south-east edge of Australia.

Focused around a central business district, metropolitan Melbourne's suburbs spread more than 40 km to the south, are hemmed in by the Dandenong ranges 30 km to the east, extend up to 20 km to the north and sprawl across vast, flat basalt plains to the west.



LANGUAGE

The official language is English, but more than 100 languages are spoken by the city's residents.

Read more about the city's Aboriginal culture and multicultural communities.



LIVING COSTS

It is difficult to be precise regarding the cost of living as each person or family will have their own particular living standards and lifestyle. However, a general guide to the cost of living can be found on <https://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/english/live-in-australia/living-costs>.

Below is a “basket” of everyday products, and their approximate costs. It should be remembered that these costs vary from city to city and also, from rural to urban areas. These prices are an approximate of the Victorian average and are to be used as a guide only.

International students will require approximately AU\$20,000 per year to cover living expenses (this is in addition to tuition fees). Depending on your lifestyle you may require more or less than these amounts

We estimate your average weekly living costs may be:

Accommodation (depending on your “style” of accommodation)	\$90 – AU\$450
Electricity, gas & phone connection	\$34 – AU\$140
Phone calls – mobile phone calls will be more expensive	\$20 – AU\$55 P/M
Food, groceries – cooking at home	\$80 – AU\$280
Bus fares / Public Transport	\$20 – AU\$55
Personal items, entertainment etc.	\$80 – AU\$150



Some Typical Costs in Melbourne

A cup of coffee (7 - Eleven etc.)	\$4.50
Lunch in a cafe	\$15 - \$25
Fast food e.g. (McDonalds etc.)	\$10
Yum Cha (Dim Sum)	\$20
Take Away food (Indian, Chinese, Thai, Pizza, etc)	\$15 - \$20
Movies (many theatres have "movie nights" that will be cheaper)	\$18



CULTURAL ADJUSTMENTS

You will find many things different when you arrive in Australia. Below are a few basic principles which will help you adjust into a new culture.

- ▶ You do not have to change your basic moral, cultural or religious beliefs. All you need to do is be proud and confident of who you are and to keep an open mind. Look, learn and listen to other people's perspectives.
- ▶ In a multicultural society, we value individual and cultural differences. Having a strong identity and belief in yourself will help you form a strong basis on which to build tolerance.
- ▶ In Australia, there are over 200 cultural groups. You will no doubt find people from your culture with whom you can share traditions and gain a sense of belonging.
- ▶ Australia is proud of its multi-cultural history and celebrates diversity and the richness of various cultures.

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL ADJUSTMENT

- ▶ Plan to arrive early. This will allow you time to explore your new environment and organize essentials.
- ▶ Attend Orientation Programs and meet your peers and our Student Support staff.
- ▶ Choose the right accommodation. This alone can be challenging so our friendly Student Support staff can advise you in finding accommodation.
- ▶ Ask for help if you are experiencing any problems or do not understand something. Remember, our team at OPIE have worked with international students for many years so we understand how you are feeling

TRAVELLING TO MELBOURNE

Check your baggage weight limits with your airlines

- ▶ Clearly label all your luggage
- ▶ Ensure you order special meals on your Flight if you are vegetarian or require special a diet.
- ▶ Wear comfortable clothes and shoes



AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND QUARANTINE

When you arrive in an Australian airport you will proceed to the Entry Control point, where you need to have the following documents ready:

- ▶ Passport
- ▶ Airtickets
- ▶ Completed Incoming Passenger Card

Australia has strict quarantine laws to protect our valuable agricultural industries and environment. Before you get off the plane, you will be required to complete the Incoming Passenger Card, which you will receive on the plane.

If you are carrying any items that are listed as quarantine, you must declare these. If you are in doubt, it is better to DECLARE than take risks...Answer "Yes" if you are carrying any food, wooden material, plant material or animal products.

If you do not obey the quarantine regulations, penalties can occur, such as on the spot fines, detention, or deportation. On the spot fines can be AUD\$420,000 and imprisoned for up to 10 years and get a criminal record for serious breaches.

Australian customs use sniffer dogs to detect illegal drugs or food matter in people's bags or in their clothing. Quarantine regulations also apply to parcels or mail sent to you by family or friends from your home country. All parcels must have accurate descriptions and declaration about the contents of the package. Prohibited items may result in prosecution.

The Customs Services Department is responsible for ensuring that all passengers comply with Australian customs laws. All passengers are screened, and luggage is x-rayed. There are a number of matters to note as an international student:

Money: You can bring an unlimited amount of foreign currency. However, if the amount is over the equivalent of AUD\$10,000, then you must declare this.

Medication: Contact your nearest Australian diplomatic mission to confirm that the medicine and quantities you will bring with you are permitted. A letter from your doctor is necessary. You can also check with the Therapeutic Goods Administration about which prescribed drugs you can bring and in what quantities. Please visit: www.tga.gov.au

Prohibited goods: include steroids, firearms, weapons and any kind of illicit drugs.

Do not carry goods for other people: If these goods are prohibited, you will be responsible. Declare items that need duty/sales tax

CARRY-ON BAGGAGE

Liquids, gels and aerosols: You are only permitted a small amount in your cabin or carry-on luggage. Small containers of 100mls are permitted and must be sealed in a transparent plastic bag.

MONEY ON ARRIVAL

Australia's currency is decimal, with the dollar as the basic unit. Notes come in \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100. Coins come in 5 cents, 10cents, 20 cents, 50 cents, \$1 and \$2. All major credit cards and traveller's cheques are widely accepted in Melbourne.

It is a good idea to have some Australian currency with you on arrival. You may need this for phone calls, to purchase necessities or for a taxi fare. AUD\$300-AUD\$500 is an estimate of cash that may help with necessities.

Furthermore, you will need sufficient funds to cover the initial costs of establishment, such as bond money for your accommodation and rent, as well as money for electricity, gas phone connections, food, stationery, and books. It can take 5 or more days for a bank draft to clear so it's a good idea to make sure you have access to additional cash upon your arrival. We suggest that you check <https://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/english/live-in-australia/living-costs> prior to travelling so that you are aware of the average living costs in Australia.



INSURANCE

It is a good idea to consider insurance on expensive items to protect against loss or theft for:

- Laptop computers, jewellery, digital cameras etc.
- Purchasing a car means that you are urged to take out comprehensive insurance, with third party insurance as a minimum.

BANKING

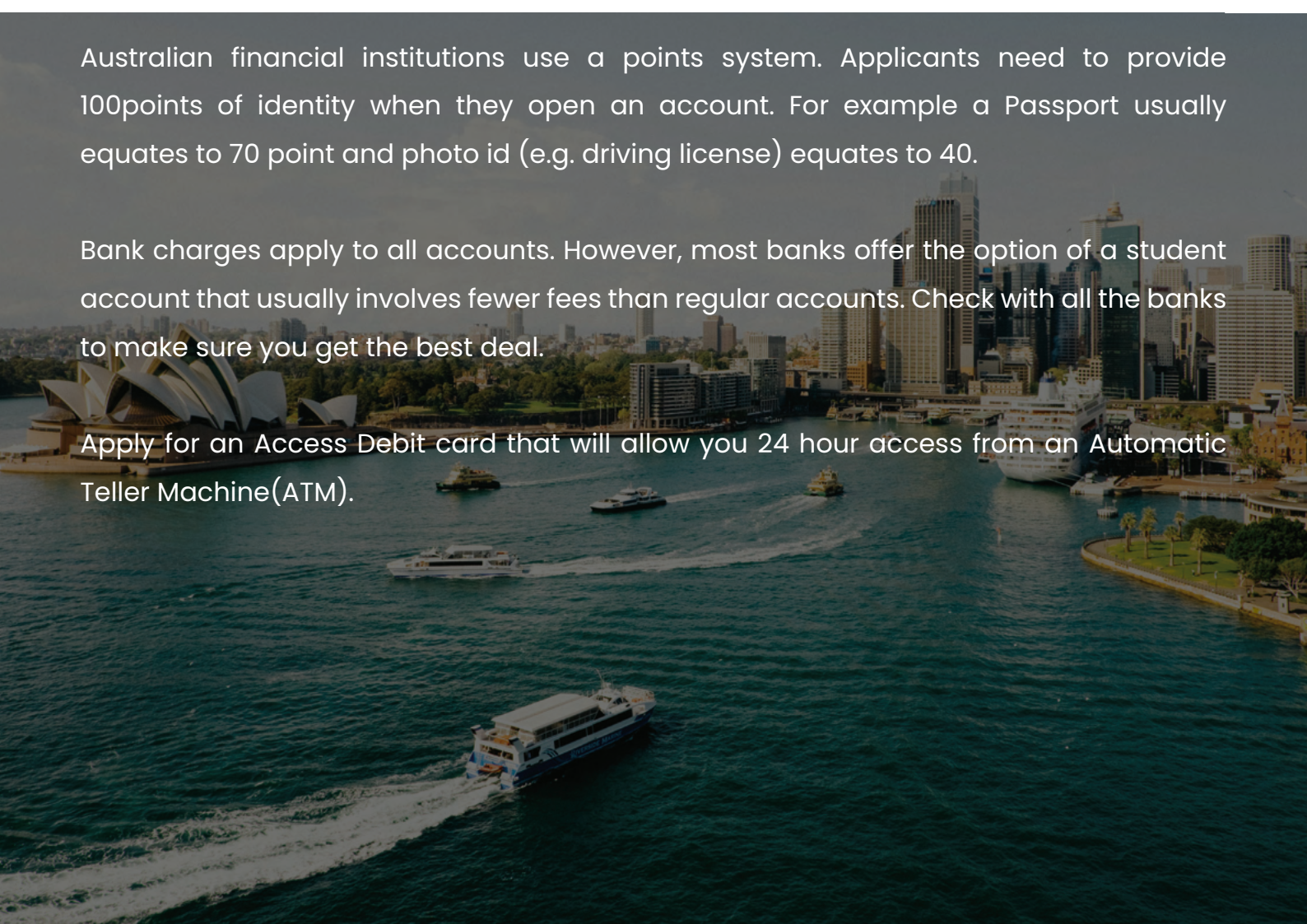
It is recommended that you set up a bank account soon after you arrive. This will allow you access to additional funds from overseas bank accounts.

To open a bank account, you will need proof of identity. Your passport is the main form of identity. You may also need at least one other piece of identification, such as a Student ID.

Australian financial institutions use a points system. Applicants need to provide 100 points of identity when they open an account. For example a Passport usually equates to 70 point and photo id (e.g. driving license) equates to 40.

Bank charges apply to all accounts. However, most banks offer the option of a student account that usually involves fewer fees than regular accounts. Check with all the banks to make sure you get the best deal.

Apply for an Access Debit card that will allow you 24 hour access from an Automatic Teller Machine(ATM).



ANZ Bank	www.anz.com
Commonwealth Bank	www.commbank.com.au
Westpac Bank	www.westpac.com.au
St George Bank	www.stgeorge.com
Bendigo Bank	www.bendigobank.com.au
National Australia Bank	www.nab.com.au



SHOPPING

Most Melbourne suburbs have a shopping area or mall where students can find a variety of shops, so there is no need for them to travel to the CBD for their daily requirements. As a multi cultural country, Australian supermarkets stock a large variety of products from different countries, especially from the Indian Continent, China, Thailand and Malaysia as well from many European countries. Fresh fruit and vegetables are cheap and plentiful and most other goods can be bought in our large supermarkets, and markets like Preston, Prahran, Footscray and Victoria Market. Australia has a multicultural population, so food and other items from many countries are readily available.



LEGAL SERVICES

If you need legal advice from a solicitor you can go to the Law Institute of Victoria's online Legal Referral Service. This is a free referral service, and the solicitors who you will be referred to provide the first 30 minutes consultation for free. After that you will have to pay. The website is <http://www.liv.asn.au/> As this is the Law Institute of Victoria, it has a listing of all solicitors and their specialisations, so it is the most reliable place for information regarding solicitors.

MEDICAL SERVICES

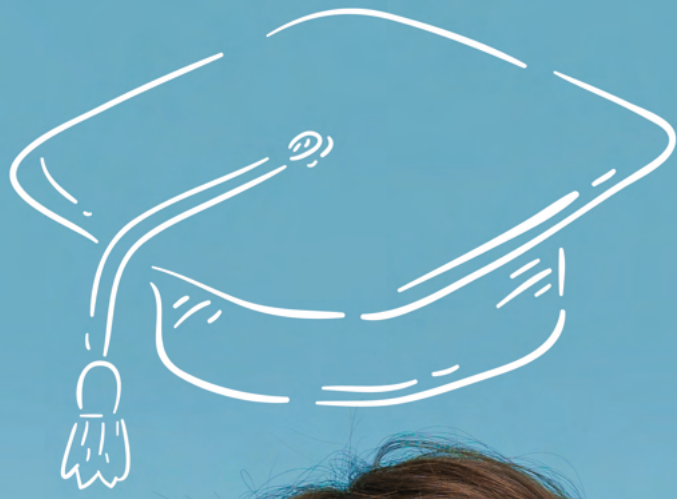
If you cannot find a doctor locally you can go to the Outpatients Department of any public hospital. In an emergency call 000 and ask for an ambulance (it will be covered by your OSHC)



EMERGENCY SERVICES

List of Emergency Services near Oceania City campus

Services Contact	Contact
1. Police, Ambulance, Fire	000
2. National Security Hotline	1800 123 400
3. Interpreting Services	131 450
4. Poisons Information Centre (24hr advice on all exposures to poisons, medicines plants, bites/stings)	13 11 26
5. Abortion Grief Counselling	1300 363 550
6. Centres Against Sexual Assault	1300 114 397
7. Gambler's Help	1800 858 858
8. Pregnancy Help Line (Pregnancy options and alternatives to abortion)	1800 882 436
9. Disability Information and Support	13 74 68
10. Royal Melbourne Hospital	03 8387 2000
11. Dental Hospital	03 - 9654 5705
12. Melbourne Eye Specialist	03 - 9417 1055
13. The Royal Women's Hospital	03 - 8345 2000
14. Alcoholics Anonymous	1300 222 222





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