

General Information

9-13 October 2017

Brisbane, Australia



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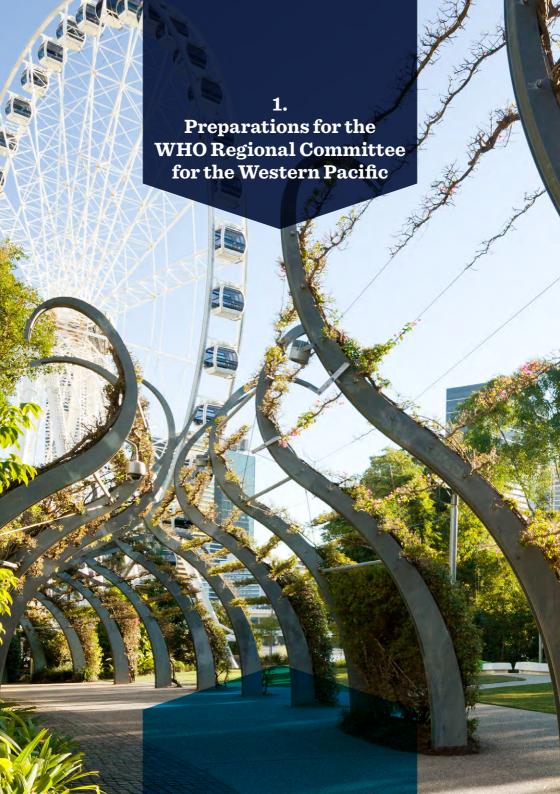


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Date and place of the session

The sixty-eighth session of the World Health Organization Regional Committee for the Western Pacific will be held in Brisbane. Australia from 9 to 13 October 2017, at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC), at the corner Merivale and Glenelg streets, South Bank, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

The opening ceremony begins at 10:30 on 9 October 2017 at the Plaza Auditorium of BCEC. The plenary session will commence at 13:00 at the Plaza Ballroom at the same venue.

Subsequent sessions will take place daily from 09:00 to 12:00 and from 14:00 to 17:00, with 15-minute coffee breaks during each period.

Contact information

Before 1 October 2017. all correspondence to the Secretariat should be addressed to:

WHO Regional Committee Secretariat Office

World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific United Nations Avenue 1000 Manila **Philippines**

Tel: +63 2 528 8001, +63 2 303 1000 Fax: +63 2 521 1036, +63 2 526 0279,

+63 2 526 0362

Email: wprorcm@who.int

After 8 October 2017, all correspondence to the Secretariat should be addressed to:

WHO Regional Committee Secretariat Office

M2, Mezzanine Level Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre corner Merivale and Glenelg Streets, South Bank, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

Tel: +61 7 3308 3169 Fax: +61 7 3308 3168 Email: wprorcm@who.int



Languages

The official languages of the Regional Committee are Chinese, English and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided for the three official languages during the sessions. English and French are the working languages for documents.

Identification and security

For identification and security, representatives should wear identification badges at all times during sessions and social functions. Badges will be available at designated hotels upon arrival or badges can be picked up at the BCEC on the morning of 9 October 2017.

Hotels

The Rydges South Bank and Ibis Styles have been designated as official hotels for representatives. Details are:



Rydges South Bank

9 Glenelg Street, South Brisbane OLD 4101

Tel: +61 7 3364 0800 **Fax:** +61 7 3364 0801

4.5-stars

Distance to BCEC: Direct connection between hotel and BCEC

Walking: 1 minute

Oueen Room

Single: AUD \$289 (USD \$221.80) Double: AUD \$309 (USD \$237.15)

Superior Queen Room

Single: AUD \$319 (USD \$244.82) Double: AUD \$339 (USD \$260.17)

Deluxe Queen with River View Single: AUD \$339 (USD \$260.17) Double: AUD \$359 (USD \$275.52)

Junior Suite

Single: AUD \$369 (USD \$283.19) Double: AUD \$389 (USD \$298.54)

Service fee if charged to credit card:

Visa/MasterCard: 1.18% Diners Club/American

Express: 3.5%





Ibis Styles

40 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane City **OLD 4000**

Tel: +61 7 3337 9000 Fax: +61 7 3211 4954

3.5-stars

Distance to BCEC: 1.2km

Walking: 15 minutes By car: 7-10 minutes

Daily transfers to BCEC provided

Run of House City View Single: AUD \$160 (USD \$122.79)

Double/Twin: AUD \$175 (USD \$134.31)

Superior River View

Single Room: AUD \$190 (USD \$145.82) Double/Twin Room: AUD \$205 (USD \$157.33)

Flat rate service fee across all accepted credit card is 1.3%* (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Diners Club, JCB, CUP).

*subject to change without prior notice (dependent on fees by the credit

facility providers)

In order for WHO to hold sufficient rooms, representatives must register online no later than 31 August 2017. Rooms are subject to availability, and rates cannot be guaranteed beyond this date. Credit card details are required to quarantee room reservation and must be sent to wprorcmhotel@who.int. Please register online at: www.wpro.who.int/rcm/register.aspx

Rate of exchange is 1.303 Australian dollars to 1 US dollar (April 2017). Room rates are inclusive of 10% Goods and Services Taxes (GST), breakfast and complimentary Wi-Fi access.



Travel and transport

Arrival

Brisbane Airport is located 17 kilometres northeast of the BCEC. Direct flights to Brisbane are available from many cities in the Western Pacific Region.

Representatives will be assisted upon arrival at Brisbane Airport and provided with transport to designated hotels.

For easy identification upon arrival at the airport, representatives are requested to wear lapel labels. Luggage tags supplied by WHO should be affixed to your luggage for easy identification.

Representatives must send their arrival and departure details to the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific in order to have airport transport arranged.

Representatives who do not notify WHO of their arrival time must find alternate transportation, such as taxi, train or shuttle.

Departure

Representatives will be provided with transport from the BCEC and designated hotels to the airport at the conclusion of the session.

Upon reconfirmation of flights, travellers will be provided with a transport flier indicating pick-up arrangements for the airport.

Transport service will be available until 15 October 2017 (Sunday).





Brisbane City

Brisbane is the third largest city in Australia and the capital of the state of Queensland. Located along the river, Brisbane is home to more than 2 million people and a popular tourist destination. Hailed as Australia's "New World City", it is known for its outdoor culture and vibrant city life.

Entry requirements

When entering Australia, all travellers must present the following documents to officers in Immigration clearance:

- A valid passport or other acceptable travel document with at least six (6) months remaining validity beyond the expected departure date from Australia. Dual nationals who are citizens of Australia must enter and leave using their Australian passport.
- Representatives and other participants (other than Australian citizens) are required to obtain a valid visa or authority to enter Australia (including electronic visas).
- A completed and signed Incoming Passenger Card, including health and character declaration (this will be handed out on your inbound flight).

Anyone who arrives without valid travel documents may be refused entry to Australia or delayed until their identity and claims to enter Australia have been confirmed.

Comprehensive information about entering Australia can be found on the Department of Immigration and Border Protection website www.border.gov.au.

Visa

All visitors to Australia must apply for and be granted a visa to travel to and from Australia — except New Zealand citizens who are normally granted a Special Category visa upon arrival. For the purpose of attending the sixty-eighth session of the Regional Committee, representatives must apply for a business visitor visa. There are currently three business visa options:

- eVisitor visa (subclass 651)
- Electronic Travel Authority (Business Stream) (Subclass 601)
- Visitor (Business Stream) visa (Subclass 600).

The passport you hold determines the appropriate visa to apply for and whether you can apply online, or need to lodge a paper-based application. No visa label is attached in the passport; a visa notification letter is issued electronically to the applicant.

To identify the appropriate visa, representatives may utilize the Department of Immigration and Border Protection "Find a Visa" tool: www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1.

Visa processing times vary depending on a range of factors. It is strongly recommended that you apply for your visa no later than eight weeks prior to departing for Australia.



Health and character requirements

All people travelling to/entering Australia must meet Australia's health and character requirements. A health issue or criminal conviction does not necessarily mean an applicant will be refused a visa. Applications are decided on a case-by-case basis.

For more information on health requirements, please visit: www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa/Heal

For more information on character requirements, please visit: www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa/Char

Arriving in Australia

Australia has strict regulations regarding what can be brought into the country. For comprehensive information on Australian customs and biosecurity, see the Department of Immigration and Border Control: www.border.gov.au/Trav.

Please note that medicines brought into and taken out of Australia may be subject to controls. In some cases, the import and export of medicines may be prohibited unless written authorization is issued by the Department of Health. For further information, please refer to www.odc.gov.au/ws-lps-index.

Departing Australia

Items which must be declared

Goods that must be declared on departure on the Outgoing Passenger Card include (but are not limited to):

- defence and strategic goods
- currency, Australian or foreign, of AUD 10,000 or more
- heritage items
- · firearms and ammunition
- protected wildlife and items produced from protected wildlife (refer to "CITES" on the Department of the Environment and Energy website).

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC)

The BCEC is located in Brisbane's South Bank area, across the river from the Central Business District. The BCEC is Australia's most awarded convention centre and has hosted many national and international events.

Delegates may use BCEC's free conference application (BCEC Live), which provides information on getting around the centre and the South Bank convention precinct.



Banking facilities and currency

Australia's national currency is the Australian dollar. Denominations include:

- Coins: 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents and 1 or 2 dollar denominations
- Bank notes: 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 dollars

Australia's four largest banks are: National Bank of Australia. Australia New Zealand (ANZ) Bank. Commonwealth Bank of Australia and Westpac Banking Corporation. Smaller banks include ING Direct. AMP Banking and HSBC Australia. International credit cards

are accepted by the majority of tourist establishments. Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) and currency exchange services are readily available at the airport and throughout the city. Access fees may apply.

Climate and clothing

Brisbane has a subtropical climate, with October temperatures averaging a low of 16°C and a high of 26°C. Relative humidity averages 52-60%.

Brisbane typically experiences nine rainy days during October. for a total of 73mm.

Light clothing is recommended. Offices, hotels and shops are air conditioned, and visitors may sometimes feel the need for a light sweater or iacket. For official functions. business attire or national costume is suggested.

Electricity and water

The standard power supply in Australia is 230 volts using plug type 1. The frequency of electrical current is 50 Hz.

The tap water in Australia is safe to drink. Bottled water is also widely available.

Languages spoken

Australia is largely monolingual with English being the national language.

Local time

Oueensland does not observe daylight savings time. While the rest of Australia's East coast including Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra move forward one hour on 2 October, Brisbane will remain at Australian Fastern Standard Time.



Public facilities

Business	Weekdays	Saturdays	Sundays/national holidays
Banks	09:00-17:00	Closed	Closed
Government offices	09:00-17:00	Closed	Closed
Post office	09:00-17:00	Some branches	Closed
Shopping malls	09:00-17:00	09:00-17:00	10:00-16:00

Local transport

Many sites and facilities are walking distance from the hotels and BCEC. Buses and trains are also available as transport options, as well as taxis.

Your hotel information desk will be able to assist with booking a taxi. purchasing transport cards and finding the closest train station or bus stop.

Taxi options:

Yellow Cab Co Regular: 131 924

Silver Services: 133 100 Multi Passenger Taxi

(up to six passengers): 133 554

Maxi Taxi (up to ten passengers): 136 294

Black and White Cabs

133 222

Transport will be provided for all official events associated with the session.

Medical services

Health facilities available in the South Bank area includes:

Mater Hospital Brisbane

Raymond Terrace, South Brisbane, QLD 4101

Tel: (07) 3163 8111 www.mater.org.au

West End Medical Practice

38 Russell Street West End, QLD 4101 **Tel:** (07) 3846 4888 www.wemp.com.au

Myer Centre 7 Day Doctors

Shop 103B, Level E, The Myer Centre, 91 Queen Street, Brisbane, QLD 4000

Tel: (07) 3210 2111 www.firstcaredoctors.com

Chemmart Pharmacy

Shop 2, 189 Grey Street, South Brisbane, QLD 4104

Tel: (07) 3846 6091 www.chemmart.com.au

Representatives are responsible for any medical costs incurred.



Safety

In general, Brisbane is a safe city. As always, however, visitors should take reasonable security precautions and care of personal valuables.

In case of police, fire or medical emergency, dial 000 from any telephone at any time.

Smoke-free policy

WHO has a no-smoking policy for all WHO meetings and functions.

Queensland law also bans smoking in indoor and outdoor public places. For more information see www.gld.gov.au/health/stayinghealthy/atods/smoking/laws/index.html

Shopping and entertainment

BCFC is located in Brisbane's South Bank area — known as Brisbane's lifestyle and cultural centre, with multiple cafés, parks and a man-made beach.

BCFC is also a short walk from Oueen Street Mall, a popular shopping and entertainment district that includes souvenir shops, banking and medical services. The Ibis Styles hotel is located by Queen Street Mall.

Dining

There are a variety of excellent dining options in Queen Street Mall and closer to the BCEC in South Bank, Other popular eating areas in Brisbane are Fortitude Valley and Eagle Street Pier.

Tipping

Tipping is not generally expected in Australia. However, visitors can tip if they choose.

Places of worship

Brisbane is a multi-cultural city with many different places of worship. A comprehensive list can be found at: www.brisbane-australia.com/ brisbane-religion.html

Social programme

Australian Government Gala Dinner

On 9 October, the Australian Government is pleased to host a Gala Dinner for all representatives at the historic Brisbane City Hall.

The evening will include pre-dinner drinks and canapés, followed by a seated three-course meal featuring a range of fresh Australian selections. Representatives will also be able to enjoy cultural performances by some of Australia's premier indigenous performance companies.



Transport will be provided to and from the dinner venue and hotels.

The dress code for the event is business attire or national dress.

The Australian Government looks forward to welcoming all representatives at the event.

Regional Director's Dinner

Representatives should also look forward to a dinner hosted by the WHO Regional Director. This will take place on the evening of 10 October at the waterfront restaurant Moda Portside.

Representatives will be transported to the event via River Ferry (weather permitting). Alternate arrangements are also available for representatives who may be unable to board the ferry.

Spouse programme

Information on the spouse programme will be provided upon arrival in Brisbane. Details will also be available at the conference site on the first day of the plenary session.

Telecommunications facilities

Delegates will have free access to an Internet café, printing services and Wi-Fi at the convention centre. Free Wi-Fi is also available in both hotels.

For international calls to landlines in Australia, the country code is +61 and the area code for Queensland is 7. For calls or texts to Australian

mobile phones, key in the country code (+61) followed by the succeeding numbers except the first '0' of the mobile number.

The international direct dialing (IDD) code for outgoing international calls is 0011 + Country Code + (Area Code + Telephone Number).

Representatives are responsible for the cost of phone calls.

Helpful links

Coming to Australia

Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection www.border.gov.au

Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources www.agriculture.gov.au/travelling

Visit Brishane www.visitbrisbane.com.au

Brisbane Airport www.bne.com.au

Meeting venue

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre www.bcec.com.au

Hotels

Rvdaes Southbank www.rydges.com/accommodation/ brisbane-qld/brisbane-south-bank

Ibis Styles www.ibisstylesbrisbaneelizabeth.com.au

Information in this booklet is intended as a guide. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, please consult websites provided for up-to-date information.



Sixty-eighth session of the WHO Regional Committee

for the Western Pacific