



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Immigration and Citizenship**

**Visa Office – Australian Consulate-General Hong Kong**

**RESIDENT RETURN VISA (RRV) - SUBCLASS 155**

**A Checklist for Supporting Documents**

As part of the 2011-12 Mid-year Economic and Fiscal Outlook the Australian Government announced that the validity period for Resident Return Visas will be reduced from five years to one year where the permanent visa holder has not lived in Australia for more than two of the last five years. This change was effective from 15 February 2012.

If you do not meet the 2 in 5 years residence requirement you must demonstrate that you have substantial business, cultural, employment or personal ties with Australia which are of benefit to Australia.

Question no. 25 on the RRV application form 1085 asks if you have substantial business, employment, cultural or personal ties to Australia. If you have answered "yes" to this question you must supply supporting evidentiary documentation. Failure to do so will delay the processing of your application.

Important: You should only provide copies of original documents. Please do not provide original documents unless requested. Documents not in English must be accompanied by accredited English translations. Please refer to the information below regarding the documents certification.

**A) Personal Ties**

Evidence to support a claim of personal ties may include:

Residing outside Australia with an Australian citizen spouse and / or children:

- Provide evidence of your spouse's and children's Australian citizenship, evidence of relationship (e.g. marriage certificate and birth certificate).
- A statement from both you and your spouse (either jointly or individually) outlining how your Australian citizen spouse/children may suffer hardship if you were not granted a Resident Return Visa.

OR

You have close family members who reside in Australia and are Australian permanent residents or Australian citizens:

- Provide evidence of relationship and evidence of your family members' status in Australia, e.g. copies of passport pages, visas.

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Our Client Service Counter is open from 8:30am to 12:00noon Monday to Friday

OR

Ownership of a home and/or other personal assets in Australia:

- Provide evidence of home ownership or assets

OR

Long term residence in Australia prior to the last five years, particularly, if you have spent your formative years in Australia, or studied or been employed in Australia:

- Provide the dates of previous residence and if applicable, evidence of previous studies or employment in Australia

## **B) Business Ties**

You are expected to demonstrate you have substantial ownership interests in business and that you are personally involved at a senior level in the day to day operations and management of the business. The business should be an Australian business or a branch of a business which has connections with Australia.

- Evidence of business ownership or active partnership;
- Copies of recent annual reports and / or financial statements;
- Evidence of actual and active involvement in the day to day running of the business.
- A statement with supporting evidence of how your business ties are of benefit to Australia.

## **C) Employment Ties**

You are expected to demonstrate you are currently employed in Australia, or have accepted a formal offer of employment in Australia

- Employment reference or letter of offer;

## **D) Cultural Ties**

A substantial cultural tie may exist if your cultural pursuits are conducted at a professional level or with a degree of public recognition. Some examples of persons who may have substantial cultural ties include, but are not limited to:

- a person who is accepted as a member of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community who is involved in traditional activities
- a person involved in the Arts at a professional level (for example, an actor in a theatre company, an opera singer in an Australian company, a musician in a band or orchestra or a published author)
- members of religious communities in Australia or
- sports persons who are members of Australian sporting associations.

- ☑ Evidence to support a claim of cultural ties may include publications, contracts, evidence of membership of cultural associations, newspaper articles, programs from concerts, etc.

These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive. They are examples of the sorts of documentation that will assist us to assess your application. If your circumstances are different but you believe you have substantial ties to Australia then please supply documentation to support your statement.

In addition, applicants who meet the substantial ties requirements but have been absent from Australia for more than 5 years must have compelling reasons for their absence

Some Examples Of Compelling Reasons Include:

- severe illness or death of an overseas family member;
- being caught up in a natural disaster, political uprising
- or other similar event beyond your control.

Please note that employment opportunities outside of Australia do not constitute compelling reasons for absence.

Please attach a written explanation for your continuous absence of more than 5 years with your application.