

20 November 2002

Her Excellency Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck  
Federal Minister and Deputy for Foreign Affairs

Your Excellency

I refer to recent discussions in Brussels between officials of the Australian Government and representatives of the relevant Belgian Ministries regarding the development of a Working Holiday Maker arrangement between Australia and Belgium.

This letter sets out understandings regarding administrative matters relating to implementation of the Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium relating to Working Holiday arrangements ("Working Holiday Agreement").

1. For both Australia and Belgium, the principal purpose of visits under the Working Holiday Agreement is a holiday, with work being incidental to the holiday.
2. Given (1) above, it is policy that the holder of a Working Holiday visa or other authorisation not work for the full twelve (12) months of the visit.
3. Applications for an Australian Working Holiday visa can be lodged at any Australian diplomatic or consular post abroad. Applications can also be lodged electronically through the internet, provided the applicant is outside Australia at the time of lodgement and at the time of the grant of the relevant visa.
4. Applications for a Belgian visa under the Agreement can be lodged at any Belgian diplomatic or consular post abroad competent for the country where the applicant is resident.
5. It is recommended that the nationals of each country wishing to enter into the other country under the Working Holiday Agreement take out, before their departure, medical insurance covering, for the period of their stay, medical costs, pharmaceutical costs, and hospitalisation costs in case of accident or disease.
6. Belgium and Australia encourage relevant agencies established in their territories to give appropriate advice to the nationals of the other country that are staying in its territory under the Working Holiday Agreement.
7. In Australia, Belgian nationals seeking to benefit from the Working Holiday Agreement will not be employed by any one employer for more than three (3) months without the permission of the Secretary of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.
8. In both Australia and Belgium, persons seeking to benefit from the Working Holiday Agreement will not be permitted to engage in any studies or training for more than three (3) months.
9. In both Australia and Belgium, there will be no restrictions on the type of employment working holiday makers may undertake. Employment in a profession in both Belgium and Australia, however, may be dependent upon recognition of qualifications and any rules of registration for practice in that profession.
10. For both Australia and Belgium, applicants will be interviewed when necessary by representatives of each government to determine their eligibility for the grant of a visa under the Working Holiday Agreement.

Yours sincerely

**Philip Ruddock**  
**Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs**

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Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs

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