


# Siam Legal International Issues Advisory on Australian Visitor Visa Risks for Thai Nationals

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Siam Legal International, a full-service law firm with more than 22 years of experience advising foreign nationals in Thailand, is advising Thai nationals planning to visit Australia to seek professional guidance on Australian visa for Thais requirements before applying, as refusal rates for the Australian Visitor Visa Subclass 600 continue to rise in 2026 under tighter Genuine Temporary Entrant assessment standards.

The Australian Visitor Visa Subclass 600 is the only entry pathway available to Thai passport holders traveling to Australia, as Thai nationals are not eligible for Australia's Electronic Travel Authority or eVisitor programs. The visa allows stays of three, six, or twelve months, depending on the application and what is granted, and does not permit paid work in Australia. As of December 2024, the official refusal rate for the Subclass 600 stood at approximately 9.2%, with industry data suggesting 2026 rejection rates have exceeded 10% due to tighter scrutiny of Genuine Temporary Entrant requirements. Refusal rates for some nationalities exceed 20%, and a refused application creates a negative immigration record that significantly complicates any future application.

The Genuine Temporary Entrant requirement is the single most critical factor in every Subclass 600 assessment. Australian immigration officers must be satisfied that the applicant genuinely intends to return to Thailand after the visit and has sufficient ties to Thailand to do so, including employment, property ownership, family dependents, or ongoing business commitments. The most common causes of refusal include insufficient evidence of ties to Thailand, inconsistent financial documentation, an unclear travel purpose, thin travel history, and undisclosed prior refusals or overstays. A visa refusal does not always result from missing documents. Weak employment letters, vague travel purposes, or financial histories that do not tell a consistent story are each sufficient grounds for refusal on their own.

"The Australian visa process requires more preparation than most Thai applicants expect," said Michelle Ann Guzman, Immigration Consultant at Siam Legal International. "We regularly see applications refused not because documents are missing but because the overall picture presented does not clearly demonstrate genuine temporary intent. Strong, consistent documentation that tells a coherent story about the applicant's life and commitments in Thailand makes a significant difference to the outcome."

The application is submitted online through Australia's ImmiAccount portal and involves account creation, form completion, document upload, and payment of an application fee of approximately 200 Australian dollars. In some cases a biometrics appointment at VFS Global Bangkok is also required. Standard processing takes two to four weeks for most applications, though processing times currently range from one day to 27 months at the 90th percentile depending on the stream and individual circumstances. Where the Department of Home Affairs requests further information during processing, applicants have a 28-day window to respond, and missing that deadline results in automatic refusal.

Applicants should submit their applications at least four to six weeks before their intended travel date, provide a clear cover letter explaining the purpose of visit and planned return date, and ensure that three to six months of bank statements reflect a consistent and realistic financial history. Prior visa refusals in Australia or other countries must be disclosed and directly addressed in any new application. For a full walkthrough of the application process, Thai nationals can watch the firm's Australian visa guide for Thai nationals.

Siam Legal International is a full-service law firm with more than 22 years of experience assisting foreign nationals in Thailand, with offices in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket, and Pattaya. The firm provides comprehensive legal and immigration support across visa planning, application processing, and long-term compliance.

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## Siam Legal International

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