

General information about Australia

Australia also known as the Commonwealth of Australia is the sixth largest country by total land area. It is also a continent with island of Tasmania and other smaller islands around the continent. The neighboring countries include New Zealand, Fiji Island, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Island, Vanuatu to name a few.

Australia is one of the wealthiest countries in the world and also a developed nation. It ranks highly in international comparisons in the world, such as quality of life, education system, Health System, Economically strong and also civil and political rights. Australia has six states—New South Wales (NSW), Queensland (QLD), South Australia (SA), Tasmania (TAS), Victoria (VIC) and Western Australia (WA)—and two major mainland territories—the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and the Northern Territory (NT).

Australia has 37 government-funded universities and two private universities, as well as a number of other specialist institutions that provide approved courses at the higher education level. The University of Sydney is Australia's oldest university, having been founded in 1850. Other notable universities include those of the Group of Eight leading tertiary institutions.

The Australian dollar is the currency for the nation. All of Australia's major cities fare well in global comparative livability surveys; Melbourne reached top spot for the fourth year in a row on *The Economist's* 2014 list of the world's most live-able cities, followed by Adelaide, Sydney, and Perth in the fifth, seventh, and ninth places respectively.