



Long Jetty, NSW

# Welcome to the Central Coast

## Information for Skilled Migrants

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# About RDACC

**Regional Development Australia (RDA)** is a national network of Committees made up of local leaders who work with all levels of government, business and community groups to support the economic development of their regions.

The **Regional Development Australia Central Coast (RDACC)** Committee has an active and facilitative role in the NSW Central Coast region, and a clear focus on growing a strong and confident regional economy that harness their competitive advantages, seize on economic opportunity and attract investment.

The Board of RDACC is appointed by The Minister for Regional Development and is made up of regional representatives from a variety of backgrounds.

To find out more about RDACC, visit: [rdacc.org.au](http://rdacc.org.au)



RDA Central Coast Chair, Lawrie McKinna; Deputy Chair, Anna Cruckshank; and CEO, John Moulard

*Please note: While every attempt has been made to ensure the information within this document is accurate, Regional Development Australia Central Coast accepts no responsibility or liability for any use / actions undertaken as a result of the information contained herein.*

# Our region

Situated just 90 minutes' drive north of Sydney and south of Newcastle, the Central Coast is home to 40+ beaches, beautiful lakes, National Parks and thriving hospitality venues.



One of Australia's most popular coastal destinations, the Central Coast includes major localities and towns such as Gosford, Wyong, Terrigal, Woy Woy and The Entrance.

The area is the third-largest urban area in New South Wales and the ninth-largest urban area in Australia.

The region has a humid, subtropical climate, with warm humid summers and mild winters. Rainfall is spread fairly evenly throughout the year, but is slightly more frequent during autumn.

## Getting around

The Central Coast region has transport infrastructure that provides integrated links both within the region, and to the rest of New South Wales and Australia.

The area is easily accessible via public transport including buses and trains, which operate regularly between the Central Coast, Sydney and Newcastle, as well as Sydney and Newcastle Airports for domestic and international travel.

The Trip Planner on the [Transport NSW website](https://www.transportnsw.info) can assist you to get around easily: [transportnsw.info](https://www.transportnsw.info)

# Health and safety

## Emergency services

In an emergency, you should always call **000** to be connected to Police, Fire or Ambulance services.

For assistance for flood, storms and natural disasters, please contact the NSW State Emergency Services (NSW SES) on 132 500.

For non-urgent police assistance, reporting minor crime and all general enquiries, please contact the Police Assistance Line on 131 444.

## Getting medical assistance

To find a doctor in your area, use the 'Find a Health Service' tool on the [Healthdirect website: healthdirect.gov.au](http://healthdirect.gov.au)

You can search for the kind of doctor you need and find out if they bulk bill. It's best to bring your Medicare card or number with you when you see your doctor.

## Applying for Medicare

The Australian Government has a universal health care system known as Medicare, which has been put in place to help with the cost of certain medical assistance and treatments.

You can apply for Medicare if you live in Australia and meet certain other requirements.

To apply, you will need to provide a number of different documents, depending on your circumstances.

You can find out more on the [Services Australia website: servicesaustralia.gov.au](http://servicesaustralia.gov.au)

## Multicultural health services

The [NSW Multicultural Health Services Directory](#) is a comprehensive resource that outlines contact details for a number of key health services in NSW.

You can also find out more about [multicultural health](#), including a list of [multicultural health contacts](#), on the [NSW Health website: health.nsw.gov.au](#)

## Beach and water safety

The [Surf Life Saving Australia website](#) provides a number of excellent resources to help you learn how to stay safe on our local beaches: [sls.com.au](#)

## Learning to swim

Our region has numerous learn to swim schools for both adults and children. Visit [swimaustralia.org.au](#) to find local facilities near you.



# Looking for work

## Searching for available opportunities

Online job search websites such as [Seek \(seek.com.au\)](http://seek.com.au), [Career One \(careerone.com.au\)](http://careerone.com.au) and [LinkedIn \(linkedin.com\)](http://linkedin.com) list available jobs, and provide helpful advice on how to:

- Search effectively using keywords and filters.
- Set up job alerts.
- Create a profile or store a resume.

The [Australian Government's Workforce Australia website \(workforceaustralia.gov.au\)](http://workforceaustralia.gov.au) allows you to search and apply for jobs or find more information on your pathway to employment, and also provides hints and tips to:

- Help your job search.
- Make your resume and cover letter stand out.

## Learning about your work rights in Australia

Workplace laws in Australia generally apply equally to all workers employed in Australia.

Employers engaging foreign workers must ensure that they comply with both Australian workplace laws and immigration laws.

Visit the [Fair Work Ombudsman's website \(fairwork.gov.au\)](http://fairwork.gov.au) to find out more about:

- Permission to work with certain visas.
- Pay and conditions (National Employment Standards).
- Tax and superannuation.
- Help with workplace issues.
- Tools and resources.



## **Australian currency and opening a bank account**

There are many banks available for you to choose from, and it is often easiest to visit a branch of your chosen bank in-person, so that they can guide you on your account choices and what identity documents are required.

Australia's national currency is the Australian dollar (AUD) which comes in plastic notes of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100.

Coins are in 5, 10, 20 and 50 cent denominations, as well as \$1 and \$2 denominations.

## **Tax and superannuation details and requirements**

All workers in Australia are required to pay income tax, and also have the right to superannuation payments from their employer.

To be eligible to work in Australia, all employees require a tax file number (TFN). A TFN is free and identifies you for tax and superannuation purposes.

Please visit the [Australian Taxation Office \(ATO\)](https://www.ato.gov.au) website to find out more or apply for your TFN: [ato.gov.au](https://www.ato.gov.au)



# Your new home

## Buying or renting a property

Some of the most widely used search engines when seeking residential rental properties include:

- Domain - [domain.com.au](http://domain.com.au)
- Realestate.com.au - [realestate.com.au](http://realestate.com.au)

Your local real estate agent will also be able to assist you in searching for properties to rent or buy.

Before applying to rent property, please refer to the [Tenants Union of NSW website \(tenants.org.au\)](http://tenants.org.au) to ensure you understand how to rent a property in NSW, and learn your rights and responsibilities as a tenant.

Affordable rental housing is rental housing that meets the needs of low-to-moderate income households. View the full eligibility criteria and learn how to apply at [welcomemat.com.au](http://welcomemat.com.au)

## Connecting to household services

The iSelect website ([iselect.com.au](http://iselect.com.au)) can help you to compare providers for your electricity, phone, gas or mobile phone.

# Educational opportunities

Our region has a number of educational facilities tailored to adult learning and skills training, including the [University of Newcastle \(Ourimbah Campus\)](http://www.universityofnewcastle.edu.au) and [TAFE NSW](http://www.tafe.nsw.gov.au).

For primary and secondary aged children, there are a number of public and private schools available:

- Public schools: [education.nsw.gov.au](http://education.nsw.gov.au)
- Private schools: [privateschoolsdirectory.com.au](http://privateschoolsdirectory.com.au)

# Driving on our local roads

## Your driver's licence

To drive or ride a motorised vehicle in Australia, you must hold a valid driver's licence.

In NSW, licences are granted by Service NSW. To find out more, visit the Service NSW website: [service.nsw.gov.au](http://service.nsw.gov.au)

## Learning the NSW road rules

When driving in Australia, there are also a number of road rules that must be followed. If the road rules are broken, NSW Police can issue fines or cancel your licence.

To find out more, download the Road User Handbook (available in eight languages) on the NSW Government's website: [nsw.gov.au](http://nsw.gov.au)

# Migrant support services

There are a number of migrant support services available to support you as you settle into your new life.

You can access a number of useful resources, including information about language services, grants and settlement, on the Multicultural NSW website: [multicultural.nsw.gov.au](http://multicultural.nsw.gov.au)

For further support in learning English, you can also enrol in the Adult Migrant English Program, which can be completed online or at the Gosford TAFE campus.

Find out more about the program on the TAFE NSW website: [tafensw.edu.au](http://tafensw.edu.au)

# Shopping opportunities

The Central Coast has a number of supermarkets and retail stores available. The two largest are:

- Erina Fair: Located in Erina, this is the largest shopping centre on the Central Coast, and has been servicing the region since 1987. It features a number of major retailers, as well as 300+ specialty stores.
- Westfield Tuggerah: The second largest shopping centre on the Central Coast, it features free parking as well as an impressive outdoor dining area that includes a unique water playground.

*Regional Development Australia Central Coast has provided the above information and the external links for information purposes only. It is in no way a directive or guidance towards particular places, services, businesses or persons.*



Erina, NSW



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