

Welcome to Australia and to its capital Canberra

Detailed below are some relevant facts regarding Canberra.

Population

About 320,000 people live in Canberra.

Location

Canberra is located in the Australian Capital Territory, which is surrounded by New South Wales. The city is 150 kilometres inland and 571 metres above the Pacific Ocean, 281 kilometres from Sydney and 660 kilometres from Melbourne.

History

Located on the ancient lands of the Indigenous Ngunnawal people, Canberra's name is thought to mean 'meeting place', derived from the Aboriginal word Kamberra. European settlers first came in the 1830s, and the area was chosen for the federal capital in 1908. Canberra's special contrast of nature and urban living was planned in 1912 by master designer, Walter Burley Griffin, a Chicago architect who won an international design competition. The provisional Parliament House was opened in 1927 in what was then a treeless paddock. For more information on Canberra's history, visit www.nationalcapital.gov.au.

Public holidays 2006

New Year's Day* - 2 January
Australia Day - 26 January
Canberra Day - 20 March
Good Friday - 14 April
Easter Monday - 17 April
Anzac Day - 25 April
Queen's Birthday - 12 June
Labour Day - 2 October
Christmas Day - 25 December
Boxing Day - 26 December

*Note this is the holiday, not the actual day celebrated.

ACT school terms 2006

Term 1 - Friday 3 February to Thursday 13 April
Term 2 - Monday 1 May to Friday 7 July
Term 3 - Monday 24 July to Friday 29 September
Term 4 - Monday 16 October to Thursday 21 December

Retail shopping hours

Monday to Thursday - 9.00 am to 5.30 pm
Friday - 9.00 am to 9.00 pm
Saturday - 9.00 am to 5.00 pm
Sunday - 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Hours vary at smaller shopping centres and in the nearby city of Queanbeyan.

Banking hours

Monday to Thursday - 9.30 am to 4.00 pm
Friday - 9.00 am to 4.00 pm

Most branches have 24 hour automatic teller machines.

Weather

Season	Climate	Average Minimum*	Average Maximum*
Spring	Cool sunny days with glorious floral blossoms	5	19
Summer	Warm to hot, plenty of sunshine	12	27
Autumn	Thousands of trees turn gold and red, with cool nights and warm days	7	20
Winter	Crisp and cool with occasional frosty mornings	0	12

* Degrees Celsius

International visitors

Currency

The Australian dollar (A\$) is a decimal currency with units in dollars and cents.

Voltage

The Australian domestic standard voltage is AC 240 volts, 50 cycle. The standard plug is a three prong type (Flat Earth).

Language

English.

Air Travel

Generally, overseas travellers coming to Canberra will need to fly into an interstate airport and then transfer to a Canberra flight as there are few direct flights to Canberra from overseas.

Tipping

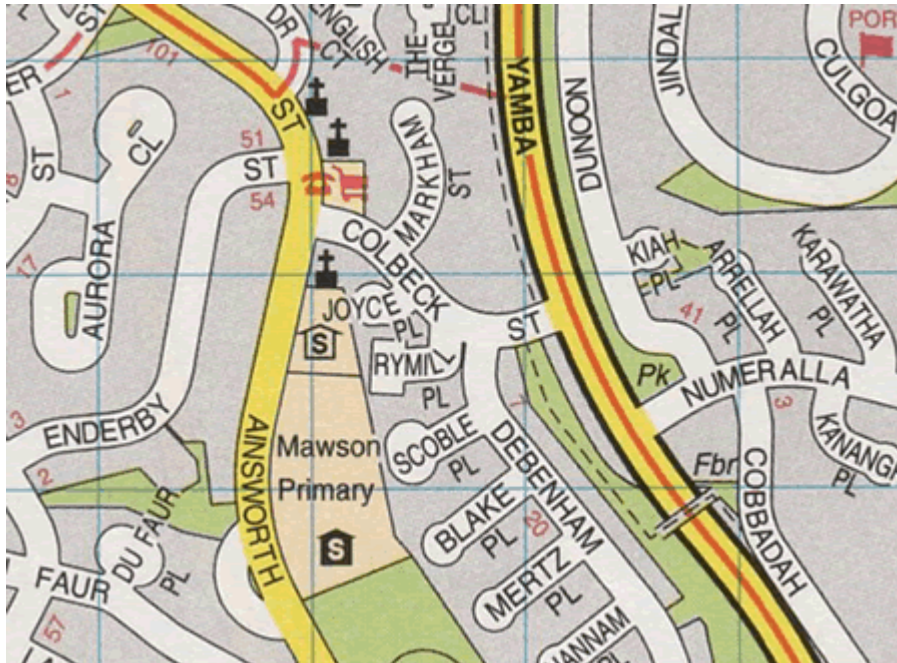
While appreciated, is not expected in Australia. If you have received excellent service, particularly in a restaurant, a tip is always welcome.

Telephones

- Canberra's area code is 02 if calling from within Australia or +61 2 from overseas.
- The cost of a local call from a public phone is 50 cents.
- 1800 numbers are free call numbers when dialled from anywhere within Australia.
- 1300 numbers are costed at the local call rate when dialled from anywhere within Australia.

The JP International College is located in the suburb of Mawson located some 15 minutes car travel from the centre of Canberra, at 15 Swinger Hill shops on the corner of Ainsworth & Colbeck Streets .

As shown on the map below.



Participant Facilities at JP International College

Participants are well provided for at JP Intentional College, the participant lounge is a relaxing venue for participants to relax and meet other participants, it has tea and coffee facilities.

Also available in the lounge is the complementary computer access facilities, these include internet connected computers with which students are access the internet for personal emails, course study and research.

A moderate library is available to participants to supplement their own reference material. These library resources are not for loan, but for reference within the Participant Lounge.

The JP International College does not provide any form of Student accommodation.

Students are required to find their own accommodation.

Housing options include:

- Renting a flatette:
 - Single bed/living room with its own basic kitchen, and often a shared bathroom. Approximately \$150 to \$250+ per week. .
- Renting a house or flat:

- One or more bedrooms, a kitchen, bathroom, living area, and usually laundry. Approximately \$120 to \$290+ per week for one bedroom plus \$90 to \$175+ per week for each additional bedroom.

A number of Real Estate agencies service the campus area and are easily contactable either in person or by telephone, e- mail etc.

Michael Potter Real Estate - Mawson

Shop 2b Southlands Shopping Centre
MAWSON 2607

Phone: 02 6290 1211

Fax: 02 6290 1411

<http://www.michaelpotter.com.au>

Richard Luton Properties - Weston Creek

27-31 Brierly Street
WESTON CREEK 2611

Phone: 02 6287 1600

Fax: 02 6287 1611

<http://www.luton.com.au>

Local doctors, dentists and supermarkets are located at Woden Plaza approximately 15 minutes walk from the college.

Alternative shops are located at the Southlands Centre 10 minute walk away.

The Mawson area has a number of local churches and community groups as well as being located in some of the most attractive areas in Australia.