

WORKING HOLIDAY MAKER - WHM VISA FACT SHEET

PROCESSES & EXPECTATIONS when Volunteering with BlazeAid

This document provides an overview of the processes and expectations for WHV International volunteers with either a Working Holiday (Subclass 417) or Work and Holiday (Subclass 462) Visa, participating in BlazeAid volunteering programs. It is designed for WHV International volunteers for a safe & meaningful volunteering experience & an opportunity to learn new skills.

What is BlazeAid?

BlazeAid helps rural families rebuild fences and farm infrastructure after natural disasters.

What is Volunteering?

Volunteering is time willingly given for the common good and without financial gain.

Volunteering Process for WH VISA holders:

Ensure you have your documents in your possession, are in hard-copy, and are currently active.

- WHM Visa paperwork (active)
- Travel Insurance (see below)
- Ambulance Cover (see below)
- Medicare Card (if applicable)

Process of Application to Volunteer:

To check out our Camp options check our BlazeAid Website

www.blazeaid.com.au

- Get Involved
- Current Camps
- Click on any of these camps for further details.
- Under each Camp you can then click on

Volunteer Now & insert your details

If still unsure, please feel free to call **Debbie 0418 990 267**

Connect with your Camp Co-Ordinator (minimum 24hrs ahead of your arrival)

Information they require:

- **WHEN** you're coming
- **WHAT** accommodation you have/need
- **WHAT** expertise /skills you have
- **HOW** long you are staying
- **BEST** contact no.

OH&S:

All volunteers must follow BlazeAid's on-site safety briefing and OH&S procedures. BlazeAid Team Leaders supervise all work and allocate tasks that are appropriate for participants ability and safety.

NB. Under no circumstance will any volunteer be permitted to use machinery or equipment that requires specific training to operate without full Accreditation & approved by Team Leader.

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Behaviour Expectations:

- Respect farm owners and their sensitive information
- Respect for BlazeAid's equipment
- Stay in assigned work zones, always working with your 'buddy'
- Follow supervisor and team leader instructions
- **BlazeAid is a low alcohol environment, smoking and vaping in designated areas only**

Safety & Health Requirements:

- Ensure your tetanus vaccination is up to date.
- Bring insect repellent (flies and mozzies are common).
- Volunteers are strongly advised to have Ambulance Cover.
- Work is on rural properties in challenging conditions - ensure you are physically capable of performing the work and can follow instructions and understand English

Volunteers will be required to:

- **ACCOMMODATION:** Supply tents or accommodation. Sometimes, simple accommodation is available in the form of swift shelters or donated tents, but you **MUST** check with Camp Coordinator for availability before you arrive.
- **TRANSPORT:** Supply transport/ or car-share to & from the farm & Camp venue each day
 - BlazeAid arranges transport to and from basecamp to farms each day.
 - It is WHM responsibility to get themselves to the basecamp, however it is possible for bus/train pickup to the camp may be arranged if close by.

Personal Gear:

- Bedding (Sheet/doona/pillow case/PJs), pillow
- Toiletries (including Towel/face towel)
- Water bottle
- Personal medication
- Sunscreen, insect repellent
- Meals & Snacks – if you have special dietary needs you will need to bring your own food if you are not able to eat the meals provided

Camp Meals:

- Meals are provided for volunteers, but please bring your own snacks. A variety of cakes/snacks may be available as part of the daily meals (ie. Morning/afternoon tea)
- Breakfast, lunch (sandwich making station/morning tea for packed lunch) and a nourishing two-course evening meal are provided by BlazeAid (with help from local community groups) at the basecamps.
- If the families that you will be working with are able to do so, they may offer to provide morning tea and lunch for volunteers each day.

**** Please note, if you have special dietary needs you will need to bring your own food if you are not able to eat the meals provided**

Clothing Requirements:

- Long sleeves & long pants
- Sturdy enclosed footwear/thongs for showers
- Broad-brimmed hat (optional fly veil)

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At Camp:

- Camp venue can be very basic but there are always showers, toilets, and dining areas with all meals supplied for the volunteers
- Volunteers of all ages and abilities are all working for the same aim of helping out
- Early starts to each day especially if hot weather predicted
- Muster (tool-box) and Safety talk every morning is compulsory, otherwise insurance cannot be signed off
- Be prepared to pitch in and help out regardless – BlazeAid is a team effort!
- Great friendships are made, many interesting stories & experiences are shared

NB. BlazeAid is a low alcohol environment, smoking and vaping in designated areas only

Tasks that BlazeAid volunteers MAY be involved /assist with:

- Admin support at the Camp office
 - Taking phone-calls on the Camp mobile & noting down messages
 - Helping with data processing and filing and sorting information
 - Inserting information into the inventory and data base
 - Assisting with the daily compiling of teams & leaders
 - Assisting the Camp Co-Ordinator when and where possible
- Kitchen support at the Camp
 - Preparing and cooking food and washing dishes
 - Setting up & putting away at the food servery
 - Sorting & storing donated & purchased foods
 - Tidying & cleaning the dining areas
 - Keeping food supplies in fridges and deep freezes in order
- Fencing trailers maintenance - at the end of each and every working day.
 - Ensuring all equipment is clean, refuelled, recharged & ready to go
 - Ensuring saws, axes & chainsaws are sharpened
 - Ensuring all equipment with wooden handles has wood oiled
 - Checking all extension cords for splits, cuts or loose plugs & repair if needed
 - Ensuring all ropes, extension cords are all wound up neatly and stored correctly
 - Check for any damaged extension cords, equipment & report to the co-ordinator
 - Cleaning out the trailers of any rubbish or excess materials
 - Checking the inventory to ensure all items are in the trailer and ready to go
 - Checking all trailers & tow vehicles are locked securely at the end of every day
- Working on the affected property
 - Clearing the debris from the affected fenceline
 - Rolling up the damaged wiring
 - Helping remove the piles of damaged fencing materials
 - Placing new star droppers along the fenceline
 - Helping erect posts and end assemblies
 - Stringing out wires along the new fenceline & securing to the new posts
 - Tidying up and sorting out fencing materials
 - Helping team members out – many hands make light work

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NB No volunteer will be permitted to use machinery or equipment that requires specific training to operate without full Accreditation & approval by the Camp Team Leader

Daily Program (example only): (camps run 7 days/week in most camps)

- 6am – 6:45am: Breakfast for all volunteers & also prepare own snacks/lunches time
 - Volunteers take their own snacks. BlazeAid will supply drinking water.
- 6:45am: All volunteers arrive at the Muster talk
 - *Everyone must be wearing appropriate clothing and shoes etc.*
- 6.45am: The BlazeAid Team Leader will present the Muster talk & Safety briefing at the Camp location to explain the OH&S standards, & outline the proposed work for the day.
 - BlazeAid Safety vests, protective glasses & safety gloves etc. will be supplied at the Muster talk.
- 7:15am: Volunteers will move into allocated teams & will be dispersed to their work zones at the property where the work is required for the day.
 - All Volunteers are to work at the designated farm in allocated teams until approx. 3pm depending on weather & circumstances on the day
- 3pm: Complete the working program & return to Camp.

Please Note:

- Times may vary considerably owing to travel times, weather and farm location
- Times to be finalised in conjunction with the BlazeAid Camp Co-ordinators

Is the Camp Authorised to sign off with WHM Visas?

Many of our BlazeAid camps can accept WHM Visa holders for your visa requirements to meet your 88 days sign off on WHM Visa.

Please check to ensure the Camp you wish to volunteer at, does accept WHM Visa.

The camps are listed under Current Camps on our website and will stipulate if they can sign off on WHM Visas.

If not stipulated, then please select another BlazeAid camp that is accepting WHM Visas.

Can I Volunteer at Multiple Camps?

A WHM can volunteer in different BlazeAid camps and have their days signed off at each camp.

Locations where the WHM has volunteered – Residential address (incl. postcode)

Every property address that the volunteer has worked on, (incl. the postcode), must be added to the confirmation form.

The WHM visa holder will have to enter each address when applying for the new visa. In addition they will have to attach the signed BlazeAid confirmation for the Department of Home Affairs.

Insurance

BlazeAid insurance meets the needs of volunteers. This coverage is designed to protect you while you are performing authorised voluntary work or travelling directly to & from a camp.

Non-Australian volunteers need to read the following carefully if coming to BlazeAid as Aon Insurance only partially covers Non-Australian volunteers. All volunteers are required to have an adequate level of English proficiency (both spoken and comprehension), as our insurance

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policy requires that all volunteers are able to understand and follow instructions provided by the coordinator and team leaders

Ambulance Cover

All BlazeAid Volunteers (both Australian & International) are strongly advised to have Ambulance Cover when they come to the basecamps.

If you need an ambulance for any incident that isn't covered by Ambulance insurance, you could face a bill for thousands of dollars.

Travel Insurance

All International Volunteers **must** have travel insurance that covers manual volunteering work on farms.

You will need to provide written documentation that you have a Travel Insurance Policy which covers you for manual volunteering work on farms.

You will need to ensure you have provided this proof to the BlazeAid Camp Coordinator before you are accepted as a volunteer with BlazeAid.

The policy must be active.

Please be aware of any withholding periods if you are committing to a new policy.

Working for Property Owners NOT Registered with BlazeAid

Please note that Volunteers who work for property owners **other than those properties registered with BlazeAid**, will **NOT** be covered under BlazeAid volunteer insurance.

You need to organise your own insurance or make sure you are covered under the property owner's insurance.

Home Affairs website

WHM Visa holders are responsible for obtaining all current information from the Home Affairs website:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/work-holiday-417/specified-work>

PASSPORTS

Is your passport from NEW ZEALAND or the REPUBLIC of IRELAND?

Passport

You will need to show your passport

Medical

You are covered for Public hospital and PBS drugs and you will be seen by a doctor.

Travel Insurance

You will need to show adequate Travel Insurance which covers volunteering on farms.

Ambulance Cover

Volunteers are strongly advised to have Ambulance Cover when they come to the basecamps.

Is your passport from BELGIUM, FINLAND, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, SLOVENIA, SWEDEN or the UK?

Passport

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You will need to show your passport.

Medicare Card

Bring your Medicare card with you to BlazeAid and you are covered as Australia has a Reciprocal Health and Medical Benefits program with your country.

Travel Insurance

You will need to show adequate Travel Insurance which covers volunteering on farms.

Ambulance Cover

Volunteers are strongly advised to have Ambulance Cover when they come to the basecamps.

Is your passport from ITALY or MALTA?

The Reciprocal Health benefits only covers you for Medical and Hospital benefits for your first 6 months in Australia. Covid-19 extensions have been applied. Please ensure that you know when these cut-off dates are.

Passport

You will need to show your passport.

Medicare Card

You may volunteer for BlazeAid as long as you have a current Medicare card. After this period ends you will need to proceed to Advice for all other countries.

Travel Insurance

You will need to show adequate Travel Insurance which covers volunteering on farms.

Ambulance Cover

Volunteers are strongly advised to have Ambulance Cover when they come to the basecamps.

SAFETY / RISK DISCLAIMER:

Contact BlazeAid for our Risk Analysis / OH&S Documentation.

All activities are voluntary and subject to BlazeAid's on-site Safety briefings and OH&S requirements.

CONTACT:

HQ BlazeAid: admin@blazeaid.com.au Tel: 1300 333 546

Camps & Co-ordinators – current camps page: <https://blazeaid.com.au/current-camps>

Or by connecting with the ChatBot on www.blazeaid.com.au