



DNA relationship testing

For immigration



Sonic
Genetics

Quality is in our DNA

A person's DNA is inherited equally from each of their parents and is a powerful means of identification. DNA testing is a scientific way of confirming specific biological relationships between different people – parents and children, brothers and sisters, uncles and nephews, etc.

In Australia, DNA testing is sometimes requested to support visa or citizenship applications. You may have received a letter from the Australian Government offering you a DNA test. This brochure outlines the process to undertake DNA testing.

Why is DNA testing used for immigration?

The Australian Department of Home Affairs or the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) will, at times, ask an applicant or sponsor for confirmation of a biological relationship when assessing applications for visas or citizenship by descent. This confirmation may be in the form of a DNA test to confirm maternity, paternity or other relationships.

DNA testing is a useful option when official documents, such as birth certificates, are unreliable or unavailable. The Department may offer you to undertake DNA testing when it is not satisfied with the available evidence of a claimed relationship.

How is DNA testing performed?

DNA testing is available for persons either in Australia or overseas. In Australia, the DNA sample collection can be performed at any of our collection centres. When any family members to be tested are outside Australia, a Departmental witness must be present during the DNA sample collection. The Department will only provide a witness if the visa or citizenship application has reached the appropriate stage, where there is an 'offer' for DNA testing.

Why choose DNALabs for your Immigration DNA testing?

Experience

DNALabs has been working with the Australian Government since 1993 and we have extensive international experience in DNA testing. Our highly skilled team takes care of the process for you, including:

- ▶ Requesting appointments for sample collection
- ▶ Transporting samples
- ▶ Coordinating with Australian Departmental offices worldwide
- ▶ Providing accurate and timely DNA testing results

Our experience and close connections with Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates in each country ensures a straightforward testing process. DNALabs complies with all requirements set out by the Department of Home Affairs.

Accreditation

DNALabs is accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) for compliance with ISO/IEC 17025 – Testing. Our accreditation number is 14982.



What is the process of DNA testing for immigration?

DNA testing for immigration purposes can be an involved process, and our team is here to assist. You will be assigned a case consultants who will oversee your DNA testing case.

- 1 Complete the enclosed application form for Immigration DNA Testing and send this to us, along with a copy of your letter from Home Affairs or AAT offering you a DNA test. Application forms can also be found at www.dnalabs.com.au, or call us on 1300 663 244.

- 2 Upon receipt of your application form, payment and copy of your DNA offer letter, instructions and relevant forms are sent to each person being tested in Australia. Cheek swabs are collected from those persons and transported to the laboratory.

- 3 An appointment request is made by our case consultants for the people overseas. The panel physician and a Departmental witness must be present for the DNA sample collection. Following our request, the Department will schedule an appointment for the people overseas. DNALabs will send a blood spot DNA collection kit containing all relevant documents to the overseas panel physician.

- 4 Once the appointment overseas is confirmed, you will be sent a notification with the appointment details. There will be an additional collection fee for the panel physician overseas. (Clarification of this fee can be sought from the panel physician directly prior to attending the appointment.)

- 5 DNA sample collection of all parties is completed and all samples are transported to our laboratory for testing.

- 6 Within 5-10 working days of receiving all samples in our laboratory, the results of the DNA testing are sent to the Departmental office that offered your DNA test. They will also be sent to the nominated address provided on your application form.

FORM

FORM

DNA sample collections in Australia

DNALabs has a large network of collection facilities operated by Sonic Healthcare laboratories throughout Australia. Please visit www.dnalabs.com.au for a list of approved collection centres.

Costs for DNA testing

Fees vary depending on the number of people being tested. The cost for testing up to three people in one overseas location is \$1,250. Each additional person will add a further \$250 to the total fee.

Our fees are inclusive of:

- ▶ Booking and collection at our nominated site in Australia
- ▶ Specimen transport
- ▶ Laboratory testing and analysis
- ▶ Sending your report to both the Departmental office and to your nominated postal address

Please call us on 1300 663 244 if you wish to confirm the cost for your specific case. As outlined in the DNA offer letter, you are required to pay the full cost for DNA testing.

Privacy and confidentiality

DNALabs is committed to the protection of your privacy and confidential information. You can review our privacy policy at www.dnalabs.com.au/privacy-policy.

Need more information about DNA testing for immigration?

If you have any questions, further information can be found on our website, www.dnalabs.com.au, or call us on 1300 663 244.



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