

Chapter 12.3.5.4 s 22(1)(a)(ii) Born in Papua or New Guinea - citizenship

All new customers born in Papua New Guinea (PNG), must present an Australian citizenship certificate to confirm their Australian citizenship.

- Although some people born in the former Australian Territory of Papua **before 16 September 1975** (Independence Day) automatically acquired Australian citizenship at birth, they may have lost Australian citizenship on Independence Day.
- Citizenship laws in this area are complex and the Department of Home Affairs is responsible for determining a customer's Australian citizenship. Customers should first be referred to Home Affairs if evidence of Australian citizenship can't be provided.

New customers

- A PNG birth certificate **can't** be accepted as evidence of Australian citizenship for a customer born in PNG.
- If a new customer doesn't have an Australian citizenship certificate, they must apply to the Department of Home Affairs for evidence of Australian citizenship.

Previous Australian passport holders

- A customer born in PNG may use their previous Australian passport or their APO record to confirm their Australian citizenship if they were **issued an Australian passport with at least two years validity on or after 20 August 1986**.
- This is regardless of the evidence that was presented to APO at the time. Previous passport policy didn't require an Australian citizenship certificate for customers born in PNG before 16 September 1975.

s 47E(d)

Previous policy

In the past, some people born in PNG may have been incorrectly assessed as Australian citizens based on a PNG birth certificate and issued with an Australian passport.

Previously, APO required all customers born in PNG **before 16 September 1975** to present an Australian Citizenship Certificate, or re-confirm their citizenship with Home Affairs, even if they had previously held an Australian passport issued after 20 August 1986 with more than two years validity.

In 2018, APO assessed the risk in these cases to be very low and removed this requirement.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

The applicant was born in PNG prior to 16 September 1975 and has not provided Australian citizenship certificate details.

The applicant has confirmed they have been issued an Australian passport on/after 20 Aug 1986 with more than 2 years validity but the system has been unable to confirm a match so their Australian Citizenship must be confirmed prior to issue.

Do not authorize the application until Australian citizenship has been confirmed.

Confirm whether the applicant has a previous passport or acceptable evidence has been provided to prove Australian citizenship

1. Check APO records to see if the applicant has a previous passport that meets requirements

Search hints – Consider any previous names or other bio data. Use an asterisk (*) for a wild card search especially for gender

If a previous passport is found that meets requirements

Ensure that the previous passport was issued on or after 20 August 1986 with more than 2 years validity

- **Confirm** the previous passport applicant matches the current applicant by comparing photos, signatures etc
- **Add assessment comment** to record the details of the matched passport and/or any other documentation in APO records that confirms citizenship

Assessment task complete

Send a 'Fix request' email to [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) @dfat.gov.au if the records were incorrectly merged previously
[s 47E\(d\)](#)

See Resources Tab: [s 47E\(d\)](#)

See Policy Tab: [Born in Papua or New Guinea before 16 September 1975 - citizenship](#)

If a previous passport is found that does not meet requirements

- **Contact applicant** and request they provide a valid Australian citizenship certificate [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- **Hold application** until citizenship certificate is received [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- **Validate** citizenship certificate [s 47E\(d\)](#)
- **Upload copy** of the search result [s 47E\(d\)](#)
- **Attach** correspondence and/or evidence of citizenship to application

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- **Add assessment comment** to record details of the citizenship certificate

Assessment task complete

If a previous passport is not found

- **Contact applicant** to confirm the bio data details of their previous passport

If a previous passport is still unable to be located

- **Contact applicant** and request that they provide a valid Australian citizenship certificate

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

See Policy Tab: [Born in Papua or New Guinea before 16 September 1975 - citizenship](#)

- **File note** any conversations with the applicant
- **Attach** any email correspondence to the application
- s 22(1)(a)(ii)
- **Hold application** pending receipt of citizenship evidence
- s 22(1)(a)(ii)
- **Validate** citizenship certificate s 47E(d)
- **Upload copy** of the search result s 47E(d)
- **Attach** correspondence and/or evidence of citizenship to application
- **Add assessment comment** to record details of the citizenship certificate

If a previous passport is found that meets requirements

- **Confirm** previous passport applicant matches the current applicant by comparing photos, signatures etc
- **Add assessment comment** to record the details of the matched passport and/or any other documentation in APO records that confirms citizenship

Assessment task complete

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

The applicant has a previous passport or acceptable evidence has been provided to prove Australian citizenship

Policy

- [Born in Papua or New Guinea before 16 September 1975 - citizenship](#)
- s 22(1)(a)(ii)

