



FAQs sheet WHM (Working Holiday Makers)

BlazeAid volunteers on a Working Holiday (Subclass 417) or Work and Holiday (Subclass 462) visa

Volunteering with BlazeAid to be counted as “specified work” toward eligibility for a second or third WHM visa

- Q Does volunteering with BlazeAid count as “specified work” for a second or third WHM (Working Holiday Maker) visa?
- A Yes, if the BlazeAid camp and properties you are working on are listed in the list of bushfire affected areas published by the Department of Home Affairs
- <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/work-holiday-417/specified-work#content-index-5>
- <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/what-we-do/whm-program/specified-work-conditions/specified-work-462#content-index-5>
- Q Do all jobs at a BlazeAid camp count?
- A Yes, all tasks that need to be done at a BlazeAid camp can be counted as “specified work”. Fencing, camp coordination, administration, cooking and kitchen duties, cleaning, tool shed maintenance, etc.
- Q How are “specified work” days counted?
- A Where someone is volunteering “full-time”, for example 5 days of work and 2 days off, you can count 7 days toward the 88 days. Otherwise, full days are recorded as worked.
- Q Does volunteering at every BlazeAid camp count towards the “specified work”?
- A Only the BlazeAid camps and properties of which the postcodes are listed in the list of bushfire affected areas published by the Department of Home Affairs
- Q How does BlazeAid sign off my days?
- A At the end of your volunteering time at a BlazeAid camp, the camp coordinator fills in a confirmation letter showing your total amount of days volunteered. The original document is signed by you and by the camp coordinator and a copy is kept by BlazeAid.



Q Can I volunteer at different BlazeAid camps?

A Yes, you can volunteer in as many different camps as you like. You will receive a separate confirmation from each camp.

Q How long do I have to stay at a BlazeAid camp to have my days signed?

A You can stay for 1 day or as long as you like and as long as the camp is happy for you to stay with them

Q I volunteered with BlazeAid before the announcement of the visa changes on 17.02.2020. Can I have these days signed off?

A Yes, you can have all volunteer work completed after 31 July 2019 signed off by the camp you volunteered at. If you volunteered at an applicable BlazeAid camp between 31 July 2019 and the issue of BlazeAid's accreditation documentation on 22 February 2020, and are unable to attend the camp for signoff, please send your request via email to admin@blazeaid.com.au Subject: VISA BACKDATE.

Preparation before volunteering at a BlazeAid camp

Q Where can I find the BlazeAid camps?

A <https://blazeaid.com.au/current-camps/>

A <https://blazeaid.com.au/map-of-blazeaid-camps/>

Q Do I need to contact the camp before I arrive?

A Yes, it is important that to contact the camp coordinator at least 2 days before you arrive

Q What do I need to bring?

- Your own water bottle
- Work clothes (long sleeved shirts and long pants are recommended)
- Sturdy boots
- Broad brimmed hat
- Your own rigger type work gloves (if you have them)
- Insect repellent

Q Do I need to bring food?

A No, all meals are provided.

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

Q Do I need to bring my own accommodation?

A If you can, please come with a van, a motorhome, or a tent. You will be provided with a free site for your accommodation whilst you are actively volunteering. Some BlazeAid camps may be able offer a limited quantity of accommodation. Please check the camp details on the website <https://blazeaid.com.au/current-camps/> and contact the coordinator at your selected camp.

If you are provided with accommodations, please be aware, you will still need to supply your own bedding (sheets, sleeping bag, pillow etc). **NB** A reminder that as BlazeAid camps are situated in disaster affected areas, some accommodations and amenities may be relatively basic.

Q Do I need to bring a car?

A No, you do not need to bring a car, but **if you can**, please do. All volunteers working on the fence lines, daily need drive to the properties they are working on. Not all camps can provide enough vehicles.

Q Can I arrive by public transport?

A Some camps can be reached by public transport. Please check the camp details on the website <https://blazeaid.com.au/current-camps/> or contact the coordinator at your selected camp

Q Can BlazeAid pay for my travel to the camp?

A No, BlazeAid cannot finance any travels for the volunteer to arrive at a camp

Q Do I need to be vaccinated?

A Ensure that your Tetanus injection is up to date

Q Do I need to have insurance?

A Volunteers between 12 yrs and 80 yrs are insured while working with Blaze Aid. Medicare & Our Insurer does not cover the cost of ambulance services.

Q Where can I get more information?

A Further details on the separate visa classes can be found at:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/work-holiday-462>

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

Department of Home Affairs: Telephone 131 881 Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

A Further details about BlazeAid can be found at:

<https://blazeaid.com.au/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Blazeaid/>

<https://www.instagram.com/blazeaid/?hl=en>

<https://twitter.com/blazeaid>



At a BlazeAid camp

Q How long is a working day with BlazeAid?

A Days start with a mandatory Morning Muster (safety, group & work briefings) at 07:15, after which you will be transported to a camp or start your allocated duties. Daily activities are generally completed by 16:00 daily. If you are involved in other duties, the working hours will be similar – approximately 8hrs. Some duties (catering) MAY involve a split shift (morning & afternoon) in order to cover camp needs.

Q What do I do when I volunteer at a BlazeAid camp?

A You help people in rural Australia rebuild their fences that have been damaged

- Clear damaged fences
- Help rebuild new fences
- Different tasks to help run the BlazeAid camp (administration, cooking and kitchen duties, cleaning, tool shed maintenance, etc.)

Q Do I need fencing experience?

A No, you can learn on the job. Any knowledge is a bonus though.

Q Q: Do I need to be certified to operate machinery?

A Yes, you do need to be certified

Q Do I get paid?

A No, BlazeAid is a 100% volunteer-based organisation