IETF Venue Assessment Report: Melbourne, Australia

This is a recommendation made by the IETF Executive Director with respect to the appropriateness of Melbourne as a viable location for an IETF meeting, based on the assessment made by the IETF Secretariat of mandatory and important criteria taken from the requirements documented in RFC 8718[1].

Recommendation

This is a **final recommendation** made on 29 June 2021 incorporating community feedback.

Based on the assessment below, the recommendation is that Melbourne be approved on a qualified basis (re-visit Travel Advisory Level, Criterion 4.1) as a potential location for an IETF meeting.

Classification system

This assessment uses the following classification system for each test:

Assessment	Indicator	Methodology
Met		Each test is applied on a country, city or venue basis. For some, local level exceptions may be considered. Some tests use an external source with no IETF LLC judgement. Others require the IETF LLC to assess multiple sources and make a judgement, as does community feedback. A venue must meet all mandatory criteria to be approved.
Uncertain but possible		
Not met		
Unable to assess / not assessed		

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[1] https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc8718

Assessment of individual criteria

CRITERION: City includes one or more venues able to accommodate an IETF meeting (*mandatory[2]*).

#	Test	Assessment	Indicator
1.1	Venue: Possible venues evaluated for size and general location acceptable to hold an IETF meeting	MCEC – Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre	

CRITERION: The level of Internet freedom is acceptable (*mandatory*).

#	Test	Assessment	Indicator
2.1	Country: VPNs can be freely used *Region/City exceptions may override*	The free use of VPNs is **acceptable.**[3] The government could order a company to build a backdoor by a Technical Capability Notice[4], but no warrant canaries have so far indicated this.	

CRITERION: An overwhelming majority of participants who wish to do so can attend (*important[5]*).

#	Test	Assessment	Indicator
3.1	Country: Visa requirements are such that 80% of IETF attendees will be able to obtain a visa without excessive effort or cost	80% of attendees, by country, **can** enter Australia without a visa or through a standard application process at reasonable cost.[6]	

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[2] Corresponds to RFC 8718, section 3.1 Mandatory Criteria
[3] https://www.comparitech.com/vpn/where-are-vpns-legal-banned/
[4] https://corrs.com.au/insights/australias-security-monitor-recommends-changes-to-controversial-anti-encryption-legislation
[5] Corresponds to RFC 8718, section 3.2.1 important Criteria
[6] https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/electronic-travel-authority-601#Eligibility

CRITERION: Travel risks associated with holding an IETF meeting are acceptable (*important*).

#	Test	Assessment	Indicator
4.1	Country: US State Dept travel advisory[7] is at level 1 (*Exercise Normal Precautions*) or level 2 (*Exercise Increased Caution*) and not at level 3 (*Reconsider Travel*) or level 4 (*Do Not Travel*) *Region/City exceptions may override*	US State Dept travel advisory is at level **3, as of 21 April 2021,** which is **not acceptable**.[8]	

CRITERION: Health risks associated with holding an IETF meeting are acceptable (*important*).

#	Test	Assessment	Indicator
5.1	Country: No local disease outbreak or epidemic or regular vaccination requirements[9] [10] for serious diseases other than those we expect all attendees to be vaccinated against (*Currently: Chickenpox, Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Measles, Mumps, Pertussis, Polio, Rabies, Rubella, Tetanus and Typhoid*) *Region/City exceptions may override*	No local disease outbreaks or epidemics (other than COVID-19) since 2003. Standard vaccination requirements.[11]	

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[7] https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages.html
[8] https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/australia-travel-advisory.html
[9]
https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/vaccination-requirements-and-recommendations-for-international-travelers-and-malaria-situation-per-country-2020-edition
[10] https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list
[11] https://www.who.int/csr/don/archive/country/aus/en/

5.2	City: Air Quality Index[12] in March, July or November is below 50 (*Good*), or below 100 (*Moderate*) or below 150 (*Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups*) for at least 16 days of the month for 2016-2020.	March AQI (PM2.5) is **acceptable**.	

CRITERION: Human rights risks associated with holding an IETF meeting are acceptable (*important*).

#	Test	Assessment	Indicator
6.1	Country: Women Peace and Security Index[13] score from the Georgetown Institute of Women, Peace and Security is in the top two quintiles (*0.71 or above on a scale of 0 to 1*) *Region/City exceptions may override*	WPS Index score of **.844** is **acceptable.**	
6.2	Country: Safe for LGBT people, researched on an individual basis using multiple sources including Global LGBT Acceptance Index[14], Asher and Lyric Fergusson LGBTQ+ Danger Index[15] and others found at the time of assessment. *Region/City exceptions may override*	Level of LGBT acceptance and safety is **acceptable.**	

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[12] https://aqicn.org/map/world/
[13] https://giwps.georgetown.edu/the-index/
[14] https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Global-Acceptance-Index-LGBT-Oct-2019.pdf
[15] https://www.asherfergusson.com/lgbtq-travel-safety/

| 6.3 | Country: No significant discrimination or persecution of religious freedoms, researched on an individual basis using multiple sources including World Bank[16], Religious Freedom Report[17] and others found at the time of assessment.

Region/City exceptions may override | Level of religious freedom is **acceptable**. | |

Additional sources including community feedback

- Community feedback announcement[18]
- Community discussions[19]
- Summary of community feedback[20]

Summary

9 tests have been assessed as met; 1 has been assessed as not met and 0 have been assessed as uncertain but possible. 0 tests have not been assessed because an earlier evaluated test was not met.

Date of assessment and recommendation: 29 June 2021

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[16] https://govdata360.worldbank.org/indicators/hd6a18526?indicator=41930&viz=line_chart&years=1975,2018
[17] https://religious-freedom-report.org/#map
[18] https://mailarchive.ietf.org/arch/msg/ietf-announce/Ojr6Fa2K8e6RrnpvV6f7dWrU9ew/
[19] https://mailarchive.ietf.org/arch/msg/mtgvenue/3sH_zNFbkgZ-WYQ-XJstajKQECM/
[20] https://trello.com/b/whq8I098/venue-selection-input