Immigration requirements for Australian spouses/civil partners and de facto partners

11th May 2022 | Richard King – Crosscare Migrant Project
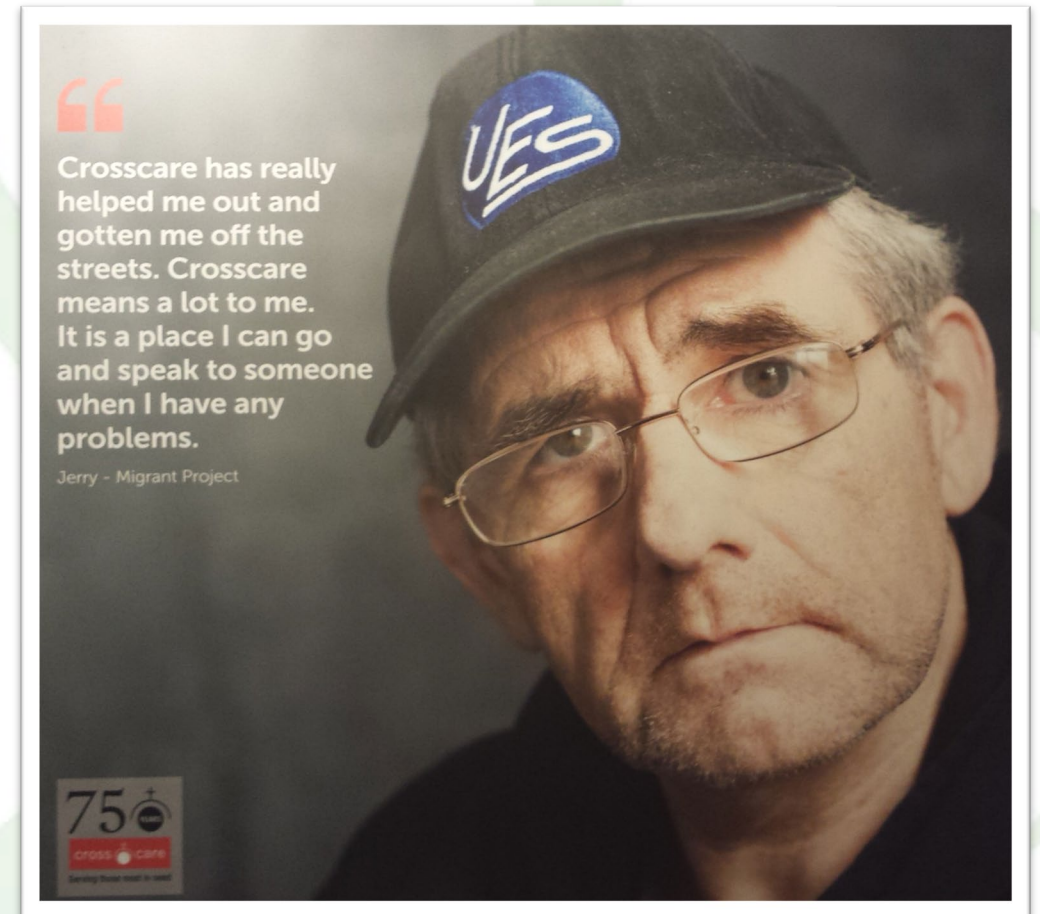
Topics covered:

- Who we are and what we do

- Trends in Irish return migration

- Information on:
  - Immigration process for spouses and civil partners
  - Pre-clearance process for de facto partners
  - Processing times
  - Financial requirements
  - Important information to include

- Useful resources

- Contact details
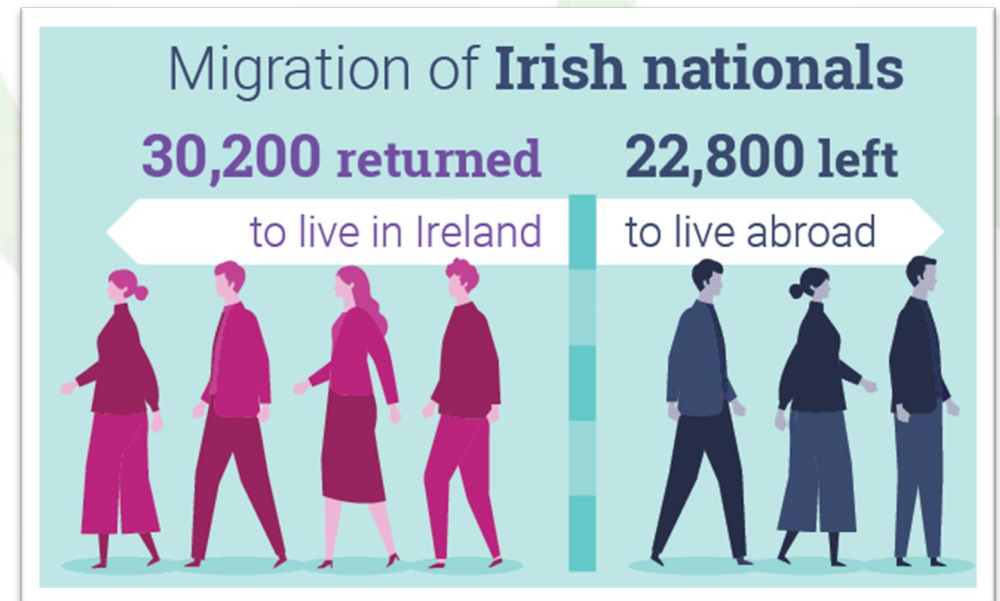
Who we are and what we do

Crosscare Migrant Project

- Dublin based NGO funded by Irish Government's Emigrant Support Programme

- Established in 1987 as 'Emigrant Advice'

- Project of Crosscare, large social care service provider in the Dublin region

- Provide information, advocacy and referral supports to Irish emigrants and returning emigrants, particularly people in vulnerable situations

- Collaborate with and offer capacity building training to Irish emigrant groups abroad

- Research trends in Irish migration

- Undertake social policy campaigns

" Crosscare has really helped me out and gotten me off the streets. Crosscare means a lot to me. It is a place I can go and speak to someone when I have any problems.

Jerry - Migrant Project

Trends in Irish return migration

- More people returning than emigrating

- Some reasons for return:
  - Covid-19 pandemic
  - Employment opportunities in various sectors
  - Want to be closer to family

- Things to consider:
  - Plan and do your research
  - Do what you can beforehand
  - Have savings and budget
  - Do what's right for you and have realistic expectations
  - Remember it will take time to get set up on return
  - Give yourself time to adjust and reach out for support

- *'Talk to others who have done it, but mostly take your time with the decision and think about why you are doing it'* – returnee from Australia

Migration of **Irish nationals**

30,200 returned to live in Ireland

22,800 left to live abroad

Central Statistics Office - Population and Migration Estimates, April 2021

Immigration process for spouses and civil partners

- Visa v non-visa required
- Preparation
  - Proof of relationship
  - Financial criteria
- Dealing with Immigration at Border Control in Ireland
- Registering for residency permission
  - In Dublin
  - Outside Dublin

Pre-clearance process for de facto partners

- Key criteria in order to be eligible to apply
  - 2 years co-habitation minimum
  - Proof of relationship
  - Proof of finances
- Pre-clearance process for everyone (visa and non-visa required)
- Applying online
- Processing times
- If application is granted or refused
- Dealing with Immigration at Border Control in Ireland
- Registering for residency permission
  - In Dublin
  - Outside Dublin

Alternatives routes and other family members

- Alternatives
  - Working holiday
  - Work permit
  - Study

- Other family members
  - Children
  - Adult dependents

Key website & official information

De Facto Partners – information and guidelines: https://www.irishimmigration.ie/coming-to-join-family-in-ireland/joining-an-irish-national/de-facto-partner-of-an-irish-national/

Online application form: https://www.visas.inis.gov.ie/AVATS/OnlineHome.aspx

Spouses and civil partners – criteria: https://www.irishimmigration.ie/coming-to-join-family-in-ireland/joining-an-irish-national/join-family-visa/

Spouses and civil partners – documents & process for non-visa required: https://www.irishimmigration.ie/my-situation-has-changed-since-i-arrived-in-ireland/spouse-civil-partner-of-irish-national-scheme/

Registering immigration permission when in Ireland – DUBLIN: https://www.irishimmigration.ie/registering-your-immigration-permission/how-to-register-your-immigration-permission-for-the-first-time/information-on-registering-if-living-in-dublin/

Registering immigration permission – REST OF COUNTRY: https://www.irishimmigration.ie/registering-your-immigration-permission/how-to-register-your-immigration-permission-for-the-first-time/information-on-registering-if-living-outside-of-dublin/#how

Other useful resources

- gov.ie

- hse.ie

- irishimmigration.ie

- migrantproject.ie

- irishsupportagency.org.au

- Returning to Ireland section on citizensinformation.ie

- safehomeireland.com

- dfa.ie/irish-consulate/sydney/

- dfa.ie/irish-embassy/australia/

- Irish Expats Returning to Ireland Facebook Group

- Irish Women Abroad / Returning to Ireland

- Ireland Move Club Forum

- Irish Times Abroad / Returning to Ireland

Contact us

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RETURNING TO IRELAND — Find out more
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Visit www.migrantproject.ie

Thank you!

Any questions?

Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

GLOBAL IRISH