General photo guidelines

Your photo is critical to the usability and security of your passport. The facial recognition technology used in conjunction with Australian passports makes border processing more efficient and reduces the potential for identity fraud. To ensure the image in a passport is a consistent reference point throughout its validity, your photos must meet the requirements set out below.

- Good quality, colour gloss prints, less than six months old
- Clear, focused image with no marks or ‘red eye’
- Plain white or light grey background that contrasts with your face
- Uniform lighting (no shadows or reflections) with appropriate brightness and contrast to show skin tone naturally
- Face looking directly at the camera and not tilted in any direction
- Hair off the face so that the edges of the face are visible
- Eyes open, mouth closed
- No glasses
- Neutral expression (not smiling, laughing or frowning) which is the easiest way for border systems to match you to your image.

If you usually wear facial jewellery or a head covering, go to our website for more information on how these items can successfully be included in your passport photo.

For babies and children under three, a photo with an open mouth is acceptable. The photo must comply with all the other requirements above, and no other person or object should be visible in the photo.

The required dimensions of the photograph, and the image within it, are explained in this diagram.