

## Will your phone work in Australia?

Check with your phone company before bringing your phone to Australia.

Australian mobile phones (cell phones) rely on 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation (2G) technology and 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation (3G) technology, also referred to as CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) and WCDMA (Wideband Code Division Multiple Access).

Australian mobile phones are dual band phones, and operate at both the 900MHz and 1800 MHz spectrum. They use the GSM (Global System for Mobile communications) European standard, and take a SIM card (Subscriber Identity Module).<sup>See Picture.</sup> Australia does not use analogue or AMPS (Advanced Mobile Phone Service) technology.



You may use your phone with your service provider in your home country if you set up international roaming. This can be very expensive, and you might be better buying a new SIM card or phone when you arrive.

A new mobile phone and SIM card can be bought from many places quite cheaply. Some phones are pre-paid, which means you purchase credit to put on the phone before use, and some phones are locked on a contract, usually for up to 2 years. Ask about different options and decide which one is best for you.

## Phoning Home

You can call internationally quite cheaply by using a calling card. Many different companies make these calling cards. You can often buy one from a supermarket, service station (petrol station) or airport. You must call the phone number and key in the code on the calling card before dialing the number. Ask which card is best for you when you buy it.

## Australian Power Supply

Make sure your laptop, alarm clock, phone charger or other appliance accepts current of 220 – 240 volts (V). If your appliance uses 110 – 120V you will need a step down transformer. Some power supplies for phones and laptops are dual voltage and will accommodate both, but read the label and instructions carefully, otherwise you may cause serious damage.

If your appliance uses 220 – 240V you may still need an adapter to fit in an Australian power outlet.  
See picture.

The frequency is 50Hz and if your appliance normally takes 60Hz it may not operate slightly slower.



## Money

Australia uses Australian dollars (\$) and cents (c). The denominations are \$100, \$50, \$20, \$10, and \$5 in notes and \$2, \$1, 50c, 20c, 10c, and 5c.



You can change money at the airport or at most major banks. It's a good idea to know the exchange rate before you leave home. You can find this out from websites such as [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com)

## Banks

You can open an Australian bank account when you arrive, although many of the major banks have branches overseas, or the possibility to start an account before you arrive.

These banks have branches in Armidale:

National Australia Bank	Cnr of Dangar & Beardy Street	Armidale NSW 2350	+61 132 265
St George Bank	155 Beardy Street	Armidale NSW 2350	(+612) 67721501
Commonwealth Bank	107 Danger Street	Armidale NSW 2350	(+612) 6772955
Westpac Bank	139- 141 Beardy Street	Armidale NSW 2350	+61 132 032
ABS Building Society	101 Faulkner Street	Armidale NSW 2350	(+612) 67714588
ANZ Bank	123 Beardy Street	Armidale NSW 2350	+61 131 314
NECU	Cnr Dangar & Rusden Streets	Armidale NSW 2350	(+612) 67760466
NECU	University Campus	UNE NSW 2351	(+612) 67760466
Rabobank	128 Dangar Street (Level 1)	Armidale NSW 2350	(+612) 67713644