

**Consulate General of India
Melbourne**

Press Release

August 26, 2014

Implementation of Biometric Data Collection in Australia for all types of Indian Visa.

The Government of India is presently rolling out Biometric Data Collection for Indian Visa globally and also already implemented this in several countries. This is part of the larger IVFRT Program (India Visa and Foreigners Registration and Tracking System).

Applicants seeking to apply for a visa from 1st October 2014, will need to have an appointment made online at www.vfsglobal.com/region/australia and will also need to complete the application process online. The appointment process is in line with streamlining the submission process at the India Passport and Visa Application centres managed by VFS Global across Australia.

Walk in applicants will therefore not be accepted from 1st October 2014 and all applicants will need to have an appointment made prior to submission. Biometric Data collection will be a mandatory requirement with effect from 15th October 2014.

As Biometric Data including fingerprint data and facial imagery will need to be collected, all visa applicants will need to be physically present (mandatorily) at a visa application centre, by appointment for submission of the visa application and biometric data enrolment.

Submission for all other applications including Passport, OCI and miscellaneous consular services will also require an appointment to be made online at www.vfsglobal.com/region/australia with effect from 1st October 2014.

Diplomatic Personnel are exempt from applying at a visa application centre and may lodge their applications directly at the High Commission of India in Canberra or Consulate General of India in Sydney, Melbourne or Perth.

For any further information please contact: VFS Global in Melbourne or the Consulate General of India, Melbourne.