AUSTRALIAN SUPERYACHTS | CASE STUDY

Superyacht Crew Visas

The 408 superyacht crew visa, turned around quickly and right the first time

Service	Superyacht crew visas: subclass 408 Temporary Activity visa, superyacht crew activity
Track record	Hundreds of crew visas since 2009, for yachts from 40 m to over 120 m
Typical clients	Visiting foreign-flagged superyachts and their managers, captains and pursers
What we handle	Vessel sponsorship, every crew application, medicals and health checks, passport changes, new joiners, technicians and edge cases

Why it matters

No superyacht can bring a foreign crew into Australia without visas, and a missing visa can stop a crew member boarding a flight or keep a yacht waiting at the border. Australia is one of the few countries with a visa designed for superyacht crew: the subclass 408 Temporary Activity visa, superyacht crew activity. Used properly it is valid for up to a year and makes rotations and long cruises straightforward. Used badly, small errors cost weeks.

Australian Superyachts has processed 1,000's of superyacht crew visas since 2009, and in 2026 launched a dedicated service, Superyacht Crew Visa Australia. Captain Richard Morris lodges every application himself.

Our track record

Fifty crew, one batch, granted within three weeks

The problem: A 100 m motor yacht planning a 2026 Pacific season needed visas for about fifty crew of several nationalities, rotating three captains and two pursers, with ten crew needing medicals and many on leave around the world.

What we did: We started five months ahead, secured the vessel's sponsorship through one captain on behalf of all three, set up a shared folder for every crew member, and lodged 44 applications in a single batch the moment sponsorship was approved.

The result: 34 visas were granted within three weeks of sponsorship approval, the medical cases followed as results came in, and the purser confirmed "we now have visas for all crew" months before arrival.

Specialist technicians on board in six days

The problem: A 120 m superyacht in Cairns needed European warranty technicians urgently. Their own agency quoted about four weeks for the visa it planned to use.

What we did: Richard recognised that the technicians qualified for the 408 superyacht crew visa, lodged the applications and asked Immigration to prioritise them.

The result: The visas were granted six days after lodgement and the technicians' flights were booked the same day.

Twenty-three visas in ten days

The problem: A 69 m motor yacht needed visas for her whole crew before her first Australian season, with a short window.

What we did: We prepared and lodged all 23 applications together.

The result: All 23 were granted and the yacht's season went ahead as planned.

New passports after the visa is granted

The problem: A visa is tied to the passport it was issued on. When crew renew passports mid-season, airlines can refuse to board them.

What we did: We lodge passport updates with Immigration within a day and tell the crew exactly what to carry to get through airline check-in.

The result: Crew travel on time, and the yacht's crew list stays clean at the border.

Also handled: medical referrals to approved panel doctors around the world, new joiners mid-season, crew transiting or staying on after signing off, visiting shore staff (who need a different visa), and the yacht's arrival and departure clearances.

In their words

> *"Submitting our applications through Captain Richard Morris saved time. It avoided frustrations from minor errors, and he was able to leverage his experience and contacts to have visas issued faster than the quoted timeframes when exigent circumstances required it."*
>
> Captain, 120 m superyacht

> *"Thank you for your help and quick turnaround with this."*
>
> Rotational Purser, 100 m motor yacht, 2026

What this shows

Fast visas are not luck. They come from starting early, getting every application right the first time, and knowing which visa fits which person. That is what Australian Superyachts has done for superyacht crews for more than fifteen years.