

## Tennis stars enter Australia ahead of stranded citizens

18th January, 2021



Australian citizens are angered at the sight of preferential treatment being given to tennis stars. Dozens of tennis players are jetting in to Melbourne ahead of the Australian Open tennis tournament. Meanwhile, there are around 37,000 Australians stranded around the world waiting to return home. Many of these are frustrated at why they cannot return, while sports stars can enter Australia to play tennis. Organisers of the Australian Open have been chartering flights to ensure players and staff members can attend the event. All those who enter must have tested negative for coronavirus. They then have to stay in specially designated COVID-safe hotels. A number of stars have tested positive and so could not come.

The special treatment afforded to the stars has drawn criticism and ire from stranded Australians. There is particular consternation because Australia's government recently cut the weekly number of citizens allowed to return. An Aussie in London told the BBC: "I can't comprehend the fact that one week they announce they're halving the caps for citizens and the following week they announce they've found 1,200 spaces for tennis players and support staff." A Twitter user wrote: "Letting in 1,200 tennis players and their entourage...is a risky choice, and what hurts is that they'd take that risk for sport but not for stranded Aussies." He said: "The government can no longer claim it's just about the science".

Sources: [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [sky.com](http://sky.com) / [yahoo.com](http://yahoo.com)

### Writing

All sports events should be banned for three months. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

citizens / angered / sight / tennis / tournament / frustrated / staff / negative / positive / special / treatment / consternation / fact / support staff / risky / government / science

### True / False

- a) Australian tennis stars are angry at tennis players travelling to Australia. T / F
- b) Over 40,000 Australians are stranded overseas. T / F
- c) Tournament organisers prepared special flights for the tennis stars. T / F
- d) The tennis stars have to stay in COVID-safe hotels. T / F
- e) Australia recently increased the number of Australians allowed to return. T / F
- f) Australia will let in 1,200 tennis players and support staff. T / F
- g) A Twitter user said letting the tennis players in was risky. T / F
- h) The Twitter user said Australia cannot make claims about the science. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>preferential</b>  | a. shock         |
| 2. <b>jetting in</b>    | b. irked         |
| 3. <b>frustrated</b>    | c. staff         |
| 4. <b>attend</b>        | d. appointed     |
| 5. <b>designated</b>    | e. special       |
| 6. <b>afforded</b>      | f. limits        |
| 7. <b>consternation</b> | g. provided      |
| 8. <b>caps</b>          | h. arriving      |
| 9. <b>entourage</b>     | i. argue         |
| 10. <b>claim</b>        | j. be present at |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of tennis?
- b) Should sports stars get better treatment than 'normal' people?
- c) What do you think of tennis players getting special treatment?
- d) Should Australian citizens be allowed to return home immediately?
- e) How would it feel to be stranded?
- f) What advice do you have for the stranded Australians?
- g) How frustrated or angry would you be if you were Australian?
- h) How important is tennis?

## Phrase Match

- |                                   |                      |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. preferential                   | a. to the stars      |
| 2. tennis players are jetting     | b. positive          |
| 3. chartering                     | c. their entourage   |
| 4. tested                         | d. ire               |
| 5. A number of stars have tested  | e. treatment         |
| 6. The special treatment afforded | f. caps for citizens |
| 7. drawn criticism and            | g. negative          |
| 8. halving the                    | h. about the science |
| 9. 1,200 tennis players and       | i. in to Melbourne   |
| 10. claim it's just               | j. flights           |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Why do stars get special treatment?
- When was the last time you felt consternation about something?
- How can Australia get more of its citizens home?
- How risky is it to let the tennis stars in?
- Should international sporting events take place?
- Is the government ignoring the science?
- What questions would you like to ask the Australian government?

## Spelling

- eerneftipal treatment
- the Australian Open tennis ortmaneunt
- Australians tnardsed around the world
- Many of these are urstratfed
- aerthricng flights
- specially snigeatded COVID-safe hotels
- special treatment ffordaed to the stars
- drawn rtcciiism and ire
- There is particular srctontanieon
- announce they're alvihng the caps
- tennis players and their teruoange
- claim it's just about the ciescne

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. b	4. j	5. d
6. g	7. a	8. f	9. c	10. i

## Role Play

### Role A – Tennis

You think tennis is the safest sport to play during the pandemic. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sports aren't as safe. Also, tell the others which is the riskiest of these (and why): volleyball, golf or swimming.

### Role B – Volleyball

You think volleyball is the safest sport to play during the pandemic. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sports aren't as safe. Also, tell the others which is the riskiest of these (and why): tennis, golf or swimming.

### Role C – Golf

You think golf is the safest sport to play during the pandemic. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sports aren't as safe. Also, tell the others which is the riskiest of these (and why): volleyball, tennis or swimming.

### Role D – Swimming

You think swimming is the safest sport to play during the pandemic. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sports aren't as safe. Also, tell the others which is the riskiest of these (and why): volleyball, golf or tennis.

## Speaking – Safest Sports

Rank these with your partner. Put the safest sports to play during the pandemic at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| • Cycling  | • Tennis     |
| • Swimming | • Golf       |
| • Skiing   | • Football   |
| • Jogging  | • Volleyball |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.