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Crypto license in Australia

From CryptoLicenseWiki, the free encyclopedia of crypto licenses · Last updated 28 November 2026

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Crypto license in Australia



Flag

Regulator	AUSTRAC (anti-money laundering) and ASIC (financial services) [1]
License	Registration with AUSTRAC as a digital currency exchange (DCE) provider; an Australian financial services licence where the crypto-asset is a financial product [1] [2]
Legal basis	Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006; Corporations Act 2001 [1] [2]
Minimum capital	None for registration [1]
Application fee	Not confirmed
Decision time	Not confirmed
Travel Rule	Required (2024 reforms) [1]
Client asset segregation	Not confirmed
Compensation scheme	None
Cross-border passport	No

Licensed firms	See the AUSTRAC register [1]
Public register	AUSTRAC Digital Currency Exchange Register

In short: Registration with AUSTRAC as a digital currency exchange (DCE) provider; an Australian financial services licence where the crypto-asset is a financial product from the AUSTRAC (anti-money laundering) and ASIC (financial services). [1] [2] Minimum capital: None for registration. [1] Travel Rule: required (2024 reforms). [1] Compensation if the firm fails: none. As of November 2026.

In **Australia**, businesses that exchange digital currency for money must **register with AUSTRAC**, the anti-money-laundering regulator. Where a crypto-asset or service is a financial product, an **Australian financial services licence** from ASIC is needed. The government has proposed a dedicated licensing regime for digital asset platforms.

License types

The license used by crypto businesses in Australia: Registration with AUSTRAC as a digital currency exchange (DCE) provider; an Australian financial services licence where the crypto-asset is a financial product. [1] [2] Legal basis: Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006; Corporations Act 2001. [1] [2]

- **DCE registration (AUSTRAC)** – anti-money-laundering registration for exchanges between digital currency and money
- **AFS licence (ASIC)** – where the crypto-asset or service is a financial product

Capital and financial requirements

Minimum capital in Australia (2026): No minimum capital for AUSTRAC registration. Not confirmed for financial services licensing. [1]

Application fee: Not confirmed.

Capital is only the regulatory floor. Staff, audit, compliance, security and technology usually cost more than the capital itself.

Application process

Decision time: Not confirmed. The usual steps are:

1. Enrol and register with AUSTRAC and adopt an AML/CTF programme.
2. Check with ASIC whether any product or service is a financial product needing an AFS licence.
3. Renew AUSTRAC registration every three years.

Substance and governance

The provider must have an AML/CTF programme and enrol and register with AUSTRAC. [1]

Client protection

What the rules in Australia require, as of November 2026. See Client protection for the same rules in every jurisdiction.

Protection	Rule in Australia
Travel Rule	Applies to virtual asset transfers under the 2024 amendments to the AML/CTF Act; check AUSTRAC for the start date. [1]
Client asset segregation	Not confirmed.
Custody	Not confirmed.
Compensation if the firm fails	None.
Serving clients abroad	No.

Number of licensed firms

Registered providers can be checked on AUSTRAC's register. [1]

> The public register is the only current source of who holds a license.

How to verify a license

1. Find the exact legal name and license number of the entity you would contract with, usually in the website footer or the client agreement.
2. Search for it on the regulator's own register: AUSTRAC Digital Currency Exchange Register .
3. Check that the website address and contact details on the register match the site you are using, to rule out an impostor site.
4. Check which group entity your account would be opened with: crypto brands often run several entities under different regulators.

Frequently asked questions

Is AUSTRAC registration a license?

It is an anti-money-laundering registration, not a conduct license. It does not mean ASIC supervises the exchange.

Figures as of November 2026. Requirements, fees and capital change; confirm with the AUSTRAC / ASIC or a qualified adviser before applying. Where we could not confirm a figure from an official source, this article says so.

See also

- Crypto licenses compared
- Crypto license in Singapore
- Crypto license in Hong Kong
- Crypto license in Japan
- How to verify a crypto business's license
- All jurisdictions

References

Entries marked **Official** are the regulator, the law or another public body.

1. Official AUSTRAC . Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre. Accessed November 2026.
2. Official ASIC: digital assets . Australian Securities and Investments Commission. Accessed November 2026.

Source: https://cryptolicensewiki.com/crypto-license/australia/
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