

Making citizenship applications

The Department of Home Affairs (DHA) [website](#) has [information on applying for citizenship](#) . It is important to note that all applications are checked very carefully by DHA:

- DHA will check for differences in any information you gave them at any time – such as information you gave DHA for your visa applications, for your citizenship application, or for an application for someone else
- DHA will check your identity (ID) very carefully, and look at information from countries outside of Australia
- DHA will investigate other countries you have visited since you arrived in Australia
- DHA will investigate if you have ever broken any Australian laws.

IF DHA FINDS INFORMATION THAT YOU CAN'T EXPLAIN, OR FINDS YOU PROVIDED FALSE DOCUMENTS OR FALSE INFORMATION, THEN YOUR CITIZENSHIP APPLICATION MAY BE REFUSED. DHA MIGHT ALSO THEN ACT TO CANCEL YOUR PERMANENT RESIDENT VISA.

What can you do?

BEFORE APPLYING FOR CITIZENSHIP, GET ADVICE FROM A LAWYER OR MIGRATION AGENT

Also talk to a lawyer or migration agent if:

- you think your documents might be false or you gave false information to DHA
- you have received a letter from DHA about your documents
- you have been invited to an interview with DHA
- you have received a DHA letter about cancelling your visa.

Citizenship Delays

There are very long delays for all citizenship applications, and especially for refugees who arrived by boat. If you have been waiting a very long time for your citizenship application you can:

- make a [Freedom of Information request](#)
- make a [complaint to DHA](#)
- make a [complaint to the Commonwealth Ombudsman](#) if DHA does not answer your complaint
- talk to [your local Member of Parliament](#).

You can also fill in a Refugee Council of Australia survey [here](#) . The survey is confidential and you don't have to put your name on it. The survey is not legal advice, it is just to try to get DHA to speed up processing of citizenship applications.

YOU MUST NOT GIVE FALSE OR FRAUDULENT DOCUMENTS TO DHA.
IF YOU ARE NOT SURE IF A DOCUMENT IS GENUINE, DO NOT GIVE IT TO DHA.
GET ADVICE FROM A REGISTERED MIGRATION AGENT/LAWYER