



COVID-19 Support for SHEV and TPV holders

This Fact Sheet explains what COVID-19 support is available for SHEV (Safe Haven Enterprise Visa) and TPV (Temporary Protection Visa) holders.

Financial Support

- SHEV and TPV visa holders can get Special Benefits as well as some other government support if they have financial hardship because of COVID-19. People seeking asylum usually don't get government Centrelink support but may be eligible for Status Resolution Support or other support from community organisations.
- If you get an eligible Centrelink payment or concession card, you may receive two payments of \$250 as part of the COVID-19 stimulus. The first payment is due from December 2020. The second payment in March 2021.
- To check online what government financial help you can get during Covid-19 [check this link](https://moneysmart.gov.au/covid-19/financial-assistance) <https://moneysmart.gov.au/covid-19/financial-assistance>
- Banks and lenders can also change the terms of any loan you have with them if you are in hardship. Get legal advice if you need ([See link](#))
- For more detail [check online at https://moneysmart.gov.au/covid-19/financial-assistance](https://moneysmart.gov.au/covid-19/financial-assistance)

Beware of Scams

- During COVID-19, and always, **beware when someone tries to get your personal and financial information**. Scammers have claimed to be from government or organisations saying they can help get early access to your super or give you other benefits, Don't click on links in suspect online messages. If you think the message might be genuine, do your own website search to check it out. Otherwise, press delete or hang up the phone.
- Get help at www.scamwatch.gov.au

'Concession period' for SHEV Pathway

Normally you can only apply for further temporary protection when your TPV or SHEV is close to ending. However there is a 'SHEV pathway' where SHEV holders can apply for some permanent visas if, for 3.5 years (42 months), they or their family member work in a regional area without getting Special Benefit, or study in a regional area for that time.

For SHEV visa holders there is a COVID-19 'concession period' where you can count periods of time towards the 3.5 years pathway even if you are accessing Special Benefit payments, or are unemployed, or if you work outside a SHEV regional area in an essential service.

The COVID-19 'concession period' applies from 1 February 2020 until some future date depending the pandemic. See RAILS [Fact Sheet 'SHEV Visas'](#)

Applying for a 'pathway visa'

- Only one family unit member who can be included in a pathway visa application has to pass the work or study pathway rules. You can make the application for one of the pathway visas as soon as the 3.5 years has been completed.
- You can also make up the 3.5 years over different SHEVs. For example, you may only do 2 years of work or study on your first SHEV and 1.5 years on a second SHEV to make up the 3.5 years.
- The 'SHEV Pathway' is only a pathway to applying for some permanent visas. It does not mean you will get the visa you apply for. **The rules to get permanent visas are very hard.**
- You should **check with a migration agent** about what type of work/study might be best for you to do now which might give better chances for a permanent visa in the future if you or a family member reaches the 3.5 years pathway. But remember that migration law changes often and no firm advice can be given about what visa requirements will be in the future.

This is legal information only, not legal advice. Get advice from a qualified migration lawyer /agent