



## Afghanistan crisis: General visa information

### Australian citizens and visa holders in Afghanistan

If you usually live in Queensland, contact RAILS to be booked in for legal advice. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade [smart traveller advice](#) is that Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate families should register with DFAT:

<https://covid19.dfat.gov.au>

For emergency assistance phone 1300 555 135 in Australia or +61 2 6261 3305 outside Australia. Send your name, visa details, ID documents, location and phone and email in Afghanistan and Australia to [foreign.minister@dfat.gov.au](mailto:foreign.minister@dfat.gov.au) and [afghanistanvisaenquiries@dfat.gov.au](mailto:afghanistanvisaenquiries@dfat.gov.au).

DFAT continue to advise not to travel to Afghanistan due to the extremely dangerous security situation and the very high threat of terrorist attack, and the health risks from the COVID-19 pandemic

### Family migration and people with a current Australian visa application who are in Afghanistan

If you live in Queensland and your husband, wife, partner, finance, dependent child or an orphan relative who is under 18 is in Afghanistan, contact RAILS to be booked in for legal advice.

Register your relative with DFAT at <https://covid19.dfat.gov.au>. Urgently send name, visa details, ID documents, location and contact details (phone and email in Afghanistan and Australia) to [foreign.minister@dfat.gov.au](mailto:foreign.minister@dfat.gov.au) and [afghanistanvisaenquiries@dfat.gov.au](mailto:afghanistanvisaenquiries@dfat.gov.au). Contact your local federal Member of Parliament.

If you have already made a visa application, contact the DHA processing section if you have an email contact and ask that urgent decision be made. Contact your local federal Member of Parliament through <https://electorate.aec.gov.au>

Department of Home Affairs [Afghanistan Update](#) states that if you are in Afghanistan, or you are an Afghan national, and need to enquire about a visa or citizenship application you can contact +61 2 6196 0196. This gives general help to navigate visa options on the DHA website and may possibly help individual cases.

Children born outside of Australia with at least one parent an Australian citizen at the time of birth, can apply for Australian [citizenship by descent on Form 118](#)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/form-listing/forms/118.pdf>

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## Making Humanitarian Applications

Any Australia citizen or permanent resident (and some NZ citizens) can propose an applicant overseas for a humanitarian visa. The applicant must prove they will suffer harm in their home country, and that they fit within Australian government priorities and number of visas allocated. See RAILS Fact Sheet 'Humanitarian Visas - Afghan nationals' and 'Frequently Asked Questions'

### Afghan nationals in Australia

If you live in Queensland, have not spent time in Manus or Nauru and do not hold a TPV/SHEV or permanent visa, contact RAILS for legal advice.

Department of Home Affairs [Afghanistan Update](#) says that "Afghan visa holders currently in Australia will not be asked to return to Afghanistan while their security is at risk. Afghan citizens currently in Australia on temporary visas will be supported by the Australian Government.

Afghan citizens who meet the requirements for a humanitarian visa and wish to seek Australia's assistance are strongly encouraged to make an application. Information on the process and visa program is available at [Refugee and humanitarian visa options.](#)"

### Temporary Protection (TPV) and Safe Haven Enterprise (SHEV) visa holders

TPV and SHEV holders are not permanent residents or citizens so cannot propose relatives through the Humanitarian Program.

The DHA [Afghanistan Update](#) "This is in line with the Government's Operation Sovereign Borders policy, that no one who comes to Australia illegally by boat will settle here – established to safeguard vulnerable people from exploitation by people smugglers, prevent the loss of life at sea, and ensure the integrity of Australia's borders.

RAILS will write a fact sheet for TPV and SHEV holders impacted by the crisis in Afghanistan and publish it on our website.

### Frequently Asked Questions

RAILS will keep an updated list of 'Frequently Asked Questions' on its website and distribute it through agencies and community

### Getting Help

[Refugee and Immigration Legal Service](#) (free legal help for those in Queensland)

Afghanistan referral form: <https://www.rails.org.au/our-legal-services/referral-forms>

admin@rails.org.au. phone 07 3846 9300.

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Private migration agents: see [www.mara.gov.au](http://www.mara.gov.au). Search for registered migration agents at this link <https://portal.mara.gov.au/search-the-register-of-migration-agents/>

Lawyers - Queensland Law Society: see [www.qls.com.au](http://www.qls.com.au)

Contact your local federal Member of Parliament through <https://electorate.aec.gov.au>

QPASTT: [www.qpastt.org.au](http://www.qpastt.org.au)

World Wellness Group: [www.worldwellnessgroup.org.au](http://www.worldwellnessgroup.org.au)

Lifeline (Australia): Phone [13 11 14](tel:131114).

<p>The is legal information only, not legal advice. See a migration lawyer or registered migration agent for specific legal advice. Information may change rapidly. Visit <a href="https://www.rails.org.au/education/legal-info">https://www.rails.org.au/education/legal-info</a> for the latest version of this form.</p>
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