

Can I travel back to my home country?

If you have an Australian refugee, humanitarian or protection visa you must be careful if you want to travel overseas to your home country.

These visas are usually based on claims that the visa holder fears serious harm if they return to their home country.

If you return, the Department of Home Affairs may think your refugee claim was false.

If the Department thinks your refugee claim was false they may send you a notice of intention to cancel your visa. If this happens, you should get legal advice immediately.

Can I use the passport from my home country?

If you have a refugee or humanitarian visa it is best to not use the passport of your home country to travel overseas to any country.

If you use the passport from your home country there is a risk the Department would say you are seeking the protection of the country that you said would harm you. This may put your visa at risk.

You should get a 'Convention Travel Document' to travel overseas until you can get Australian citizenship and passport. See details below.

Many people on offshore refugee visas (subclasses 200 to 204) travel overseas on their home country passport and return without problem, however it is always safest for refugees to use a 'Convention Travel Document' until they can get an Australian passport.

What if I get an Australian passport?

Once you become an Australian citizen you can get an Australian passport. This allows you to travel and get the protection of the Australian government overseas.

If you have an Australian passport you should still be careful about returning to your first home country if there is still possible danger to you or your family.

Citizenship gives security. Australian citizenship can only be taken away: if there was criminal fraud when applying for citizenship; or if you take up citizenship of another country (unless dual citizenship is allowed); and perhaps for terrorism

What is a Convention Travel Document?

A Refugee Convention Travel Document (CTD) is like a passport that you can use to travel overseas.

You can apply for a CTD by contacting the Australian Passport Office and completing Form PC5. A CTD is usually valid for one or two years.

You should check with the Embassy of the country that you are visiting before you travel to see if the country will accept a CTD and if you will need a visa.

Australia may issue a CTD if you have one these visas:

- Refugee visa subclass 200; Special humanitarian program subclass 201; Emergency rescue subclass 203; Woman at Risk subclass 204; Second Movement Offshore entry subclass 447; Secondary Movement Relocation subclass 451; Temporary protection visa subclass 785; Safe haven enterprise visa subclass 790; Resolution of status visa subclass 851

Do I need a visa to come back to Australia?

If you are on a permanent or temporary visa and travel overseas you must make sure the visas allows you to return to Australia.

Being a permanent resident allows you to stay in Australia indefinitely. The permanent resident visa lasts for five years and you need to apply for a 'Resident Return Visa' if you travel outside Australia after that five years.

Once you get citizenship and a passport you will not need a visa to return. You just use your Australian passport.

What travel conditions do refugee visas have?

The information is for people still holding a refugee or protection visa:

Protection visa (subclass 866)

If you have a protection visa (subclass 866) granted onshore to Australia, you must get approval in writing from the Department of Home Affairs to return to your home country. It is a condition of the visa.

Your visa may be cancelled if you return to your home country without permission.

You can travel to any other country without needing permission. You should get a Convention Travel Document to travel and not use your home country passport if you have one.

Onshore Refugee visa (subclass 200-204)

Onshore Refugee visas (subclasses 200-204) do not have a condition about needing Department approval to travel to your home country. However, there may be a risk to your visa if you decide to do so.

If you need to travel to your home country and you think you could do so safely, you should get legal advice before you travel.

Resolution of Status visa (subclass 851)

if you have a Resolution of Status visa there are no restrictions on travel overseas.

If you need to travel to your home country you should make sure you can do safely.

Temporary Protection visa (subclass 785) or Safe Haven Enterprise visa (subclass 790)

If you have a TPV (subclass 785) or SHEV (subclass 790), you cannot travel to any country (including your home country) unless the Department of Home Affairs gives you permission. If you do travel without permission, your visa may be cancelled and you may not be allowed to return to Australia.

How can I check the conditions of my visa?

You can check your visa and its conditions through the Visa Entitlement Verification Online System (VEVO). See [RAILS Fact Sheet here.](#) You can access VEVO online at any time.

This is legal information only, not legal advice.
See a lawyer or registered migration agent
for specific legal advice