



Refugee Family Reunion: Humanitarian Visas

Humanitarian Visa Program

Any Australian citizen or permanent resident who is not an unauthorised maritime arrival can propose an overseas family member under the humanitarian program.

Most people with Resolution of Status Visas cannot propose family through the humanitarian stream even though they are permanent residents. That is because they are still classed as unauthorised maritime arrivals.

The family member must usually be outside their home country and prove they will suffer serious harm if returned. There are some 'in-country visas' but these are rare.

How to apply

[Form 842](#) – This form is mostly related to the applicants' details and their refugee story. All applicants over 18 need to sign the form.

[Form 681](#) – This form is mostly about the permanent resident or Australian citizen who is proposing the application.

[Form 956A](#) – It's a good idea to complete this form so that Home Affairs sends correspondence to the proposer in Australia, rather than to the applicants overseas. The proposer and all applicants over 16 must sign.

[Form 80](#) – More detailed form containing the history of where the applicants have lived, their education, employment and family background. All applicants aged 16 or older should do one of these Forms.

Cost

There is no application fees or costs associated with medical checks. The proposer may need to pay costs for police checks, DNA testing and travel. Centrelink and refugee settlement support on arrival.

What if my application is refused?

Each year many thousands more people apply for these visas than there are places available. That means that even if the proposer and their family members meet the criteria for a visa, they may still be unsuccessful.

You cannot apply for a review of humanitarian visa refusals. You can apply again or you may be able to apply for a visa in the Family Stream, which has greater prospects of success.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM

The [Community Support Program](#) enables families, communities, businesses or individuals, to propose humanitarian visa applicants with employment prospects and give financial and practical support for settlement. These applications have a greater likelihood of success than other humanitarian applications.

You must apply to an [Approved Proposer Organisation \(APO\)](#) in your State and pay very large fees. The APO helps with the visa application, accommodation, and settling into the community.

Main applicant must: be aged 18-50; show they have 'functional' English; an offer of employment or skills to be work-ready on arrival; and must be living in a 'resettlement priority country'.

Forms are same as for humanitarian visa (except no Form 681).