



Bridging Visas and the Right to Work

If you are living in Australia on a Bridging Visa, it is important to know whether your visa allows you to work. If someone employs you when you do not have permission to work, they risk heavy penalties including fines and imprisonment.

If you do not have permission to work but need to, you might be able to apply for a new bridging visa that does allow you to work.

This fact sheet provides legal information for people who wish to apply for a bridging visa with permission to work.

How to check your Bridging Visa Conditions

Your bridging visa grant letter sets out the conditions that apply to your bridging visa. You can also check your conditions by doing a VEVO check. Go [here](#) to access the VEVO check system on the Home Affairs website or see RAILS' [Fact Sheet](#) on how to use VEVO.

If your Visa Grant Notice or VEVO check says that your current visa has condition '**8101 – No work**', this means that you must not work in Australia. If you do not have that condition, you are able to work.

Who can apply for a Bridging Visa with work rights?

If you have condition 8101 on your bridging visa, you might be able to apply for a new bridging visa that does not have that condition.

Work rights for Protection Visa Applicants who hold a Bridging Visa C or E:

If you have applied for a Protection Visa and hold a Bridging Visa C or E with a no-work condition, you can apply for another Bridging Visa with permission to work.

If you have a **Bridging Visa C**, you need to provide evidence of a 'compelling need to work.' This means you need to demonstrate that you are in financial hardship.

If you have a **Bridging Visa E**, you need to provide evidence of a 'compelling need to work,' and also satisfy the Home Affairs that you had an 'acceptable reason for your delay' when making your Protection Visa application.

This means you need to explain:

1. That you are in financial hardship; and

2. There is a good reason why you were unable to apply for a Protection Visa before your last visa expired.

In practice, the types of reasons that the Department accepts for a delay (#2) are very limited. It is important to provide as much information and evidence as possible to show that why you were unable to apply for a Protection Visa earlier.

Work Rights for Bridging Visa holders in other circumstances:

If you are a Bridging Visa E holder because you have applied for Judicial Review, or Ministerial Intervention, you will not allowed to work, except in limited circumstances.

If you hold a Bridging visa A, B, C or E and are seeking judicial review of a refusal decision on your Protection visa application, you are only permitted to work if you had work rights on your last Bridging visa, and you applied for judicial review within the statutory time limit.

What evidence do I need?

Financial Hardship:

Before you lodge your application for a new Bridging Visa (application for work rights) you should **collect evidence** of your financial hardship. The types of documents you can include are:

- **Bank statement**
 - You should aim for up to three months of bank statements/ transaction histories for each bank account you have. If you are unable to provide bank statements (for example, if you have only recently opened a bank account), you should provide screenshots of your account balance in each account you have.
- **Evidence of any income or savings**
- **Lease agreement**
 - This document should include the weekly rent that you pay, and have your name listed. If you are unable to get a copy of your lease agreement, you can ask your landlord or your rental agency to write a letter that sets out your rent amount.
- **Ongoing expenses, such as: Internet, electricity, utility, water, phone, medical or gas bills (etc.)**
 - Make sure that these are recent bills and are addressed to you and include the amount paid/ owing.
 - If you have any medical conditions that require ongoing payment, you can include medical reports or support letters.

- **Evidence of any debts that you owe.**
 - If you have a loan from the bank, provide a bank statement with the remaining loan amount and weekly loan payment amount.
 - If you have a private loan from a friend or family member, you can ask them to write a statement that sets out the details, terms and amount of the loan.
- **Details of dependents that you are financially supporting.**
- **Receipts for essential expenses like grocery bills or petrol**
- **Confirm if you are receiving money from friends or relatives who are overseas.**
 - Remember that the Department has access to information about the money you send and receive from overseas.
- **Any other documents that you think may be relevant to your financial situation.**
 - This may include a personal statement, setting out why you need permission to work in Australia and your particular compelling or compassionate circumstances.
 - If any organization or church is providing you emergency relief, financial assistance or any other kind of help, you can ask them to write a letter setting out how they are supporting you to meet your basic needs. This might be through housing, food, medical services, grocery support.

The reason for your delay in applying for a Protection Visa:

If you are a Bridging Visa E holder, you must satisfy Home Affairs that you have a good reason for not applying for a Protection Visa before your last visa expired.

Examples of evidence might include:

- Hospital admissions documents or a letter from your doctor, explaining that you were very unwell for a long period;
- A letter from a counsellor or other mental health practitioner;
- A personal statement explaining what happened in your life that stopped you from being able to apply for a protection visa.

How to complete the application for a Bridging visa with work rights

You need to apply for a new bridging visa online **via Immiaccount**.

When completing the form, select the option that says you are applying for a Bridging Visa with different conditions, and state that you are seeking permission to work.

You should keep a copy of your application and all documents provided. The information you give Home Affairs in your work rights application will be kept by them and might also be used when they assess your Protection Visa application. It's important to be truthful.

After you lodge your application, Home Affairs will decide whether or not they will grant you work rights. You will be notified of this decision by email or post, depending on which method you chose when you completed your form.

If any of your personal details change after you submitted the form, it is important that you update them. You can do this through your Immiaccount, or by using a Form 929 or Form 1022.

Status Resolution Support Services and emergency relief

Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS)

Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) is a program funded by the Department of Home Affairs that provides temporary, needs-based support to people who are unable to support themselves while their protection visa is being processed. It can include financial support, accommodation, access to health care, access to education for school aged children, case worker support and case management.

You are eligible for SRSS if you are:

- A holder of a Bridging Visa E;
- A non-UMA (unauthorised maritime arrival) and who has lodged a valid Protection Visa application; and
- Facing significant barriers that are impacting your ability to resolve your immigration status.

There are two SRSS providers in Queensland, these are:

1. Life without Barriers (LWB)

Website: [Refugees & asylum seekers | Life Without Barriers \(lwb.org.au\)](https://www.lwb.org.au/refugees-and-asylum-seekers)

Email: NISS_SRSS_Intake@lwb.org.au

Phone: (07) 3633 1500

Address: 34 Douglas Street, Milton QLD 4064

Other Information: You can complete an online inquiry form through the link listed above, and LWB will contact you to make an appointment to discuss your eligibility for the program. LWB is open from 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday.

2. Settlement Services International (SSI)

Website: [Status Resolution Support Services \(SRSS\) - SSI](#)
Email: srss.intake@ssi.org.au
Phone: 1800 279 586 (National phone number)
Other Information: SSI is open from 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Red Cross Emergency Relief Payment

Red Cross provides an Emergency Relief support payment to some temporary visa holders, people seeking asylum and people with an uncertain visa status, to help them meet their basic needs. This is a one-off payment for essentials like food, medicine and shelter and is not income support. Red Cross has their own eligibility criteria, and you must apply through making an account in the Red Cross portal so that you can be assessed to see if you are eligible for the payment. You will need to answer some short questions to assess your eligibility before you are able to lodge the application.

Please note, that you will be required to provide your bank account information when making this application, so make sure you have those details ready before you get started.

You can find out more information about this payment, complete the short eligibility check, and complete the form on the Red Cross website, here: [Emergency relief support for temporary visa holders | Australian Red Cross](#).

Please note that RAILS is separate to SSI, LWD and Red Cross. If you have any further questions about these programs, their eligibility criteria, or need to follow up on an application, you should contact these organisations directly.