

Refugees Travelling Overseas

Do not travel to the country of harm

If you have an Australian refugee, humanitarian or protection visa you should not travel overseas to your home country. **This includes Permanent Protection Visas (subclass 866), Temporary Protection Visas (subclass 785), Safe Haven Enterprise Visas (Subclass 790), Resolution of Status Visas (Subclass 851) and all Humanitarian Visas (Subclasses 200-204).**

Refugee and humanitarian visas are 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.

Do not use the passport from your home country

If you have a refugee, protection or humanitarian visa you should not use the passport of your home country to travel overseas to any country.

If you use the passport or travel document 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.

What if I get Australian citizenship?

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 if you commit terrorism-related offences

What is a Convention Travel Document?

This factsheet is legal information, not legal advice. You should always get personalised advice from a lawyer or registered migration agent before applying for a visa or doing anything that might affect your immigration status.

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;
- 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 but only to return to Australia for 5 years. If you travel outside Australia after this, you need to apply for a 'Resident Return Visa' before you leave.

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

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