

Factsheet: Humanitarian Visas

Humanitarian Visas

Humanitarian Visas are permanent visas. They are generally granted to people who are:

- outside Australia; and
- at risk of serious human rights abuses; and
- outside their home country.

People in Australia who are **permanent residents or Australia citizens** and are not unauthorised maritime arrivals can propose their family members for a humanitarian visa.

Priorities

The Australian government only grants a set number of these visas every year. There are always many more applications than places available. This means even people who meet the requirements above may not be granted a visa or may wait for many years.

Applications are given a priority based on the proposer's visa and citizenship status and their relationship with the applicant.

First priority are people proposed by their partner or dependent child, or, if the proposer is under 18 years of age, their proposer's parent. The proposer:

- must also have been granted a Humanitarian visa or be an Australian citizen who previously held a Protection or ROS visa
- must have been a member of the applicant's immediate family when their own visa was granted; and
- told Home Affairs about the applicant before their own visa was granted; and
- propose the applicant/s within 5 years of their own visa being granted.

Second priority are other people who are proposed by their partner, child, parent or sibling and that proposer does not have a Protection or ROS visa.

Other applications are lower priority (priorities 3 to 5) and far less likely to be granted.

How to apply

People with a proposer must apply through a Home Affairs [ImmiAccount](#). RAILS has a [factsheet here](#) to help you create an ImmiAccount.

You will need to explain the dangers the applicant faces, and answer questions about the applicant's identity, nationality, family, travel, education, work and where they have lived in the past.

You will also need to give information about the proposer's identity, their immigration history and their relationship with the applicant.

You must include a specific address for the applicant. If the applicant is in danger and moving around or in hiding, then the last stable address could be provided, with an explanation.

Proving identity is critical. Attach copy of identity documents and passport (even if expired). If there are no ID documents you can still lodge, but explain why there are no documents.

What if an application is refused?

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. See RAILS factsheets on [Partner Visas](#) and [Visas for Children](#).

Where can I go for more information or legal advice?

Queensland	Refugee and Immigration Legal Service (RAILS)
New South Wales	Refugee Advice & Casework Service (RACS) Immigration Advice and Rights Centre (IARC)
Victoria	Refugee Legal (also South Australia) Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC)
Western Australia	Circle Green
Tasmania	Tasmania Refugee Legal Service (TRLS)