

This factsheet is for people who:

- Have been granted a Subclass 866 Permanent Protection visa

Congratulations on the grant of your visa! This visa allows you to stay in Australia permanently. This information sheet helps to explain the conditions of your visa.

Travelling outside Australia

As a permanent resident of Australia, you are now allowed to stay in Australia indefinitely. However, if you are travelling outside of Australia, you must make sure you have permission to return again.

Your Protection Visa allows you to leave and return to Australia for **5 years** from the date it was granted. You can check this date on your visa grant notice under the **Visa Duration and Travel** heading. Your travel permission ends on the **Must Not Arrive After** date. You can travel back to Australia without making any further Australian visa applications until that date.

If you have not become an Australian Citizenship by that date, you will need to apply for a 'Resident Return Visa' in order to continue to return to Australia after leaving. You can read about the eligibility requirements for resident return visas here: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/resident-return-visa-155-157>

If you become an Australian citizen, you can apply for an Australian passport. You can then travel without needing a visa to re-enter Australia.

Travel Documents

You should not use your old passport from your country of origin. This is because you have told Home Affairs that the government of your country of origin cannot protect you. If you travel on a passport from that country, you are showing that you are happy to have the protection of that country's government, and **your Protection visa could be cancelled.**

If you want to travel outside Australia, you should **get an Australian Travel Document.** To do this, call the Australian Passport Office on 131 232. Tell them that you have a Protection Visa and you want to apply for a Convention Travel Document. They will send you an application form. You can travel to most countries in the world with this Travel Document.

Restrictions on Travel

It is very important that you **do not travel to the country you have protection from**. If you do this, **your visa may be cancelled**.

There are two reasons you cannot visit your home country:

1. Your visa has a condition that says you cannot go there – if you breach the condition, your visa may be cancelled.
2. You have been granted a protection visa because you told Home Affairs you were unsafe in that country - If you visit there, Home Affairs may decide that you gave false information in your visa application and cancel your visa.

If you have an important reason to visit the country you have protection from, you should get legal advice first.

Working and Access to Services

Your visa allows you to work in Australia.

Your visa allows you to access Medicare, Centrelink services and the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Your visa also allows you to study. If you want to study at university, you will need to pay international student fees. However, many universities have special scholarships for people with protection and humanitarian visas.

Other Visa Conditions

You must tell Home Affairs about any changes to your details, including changes to your:

- Name;
- Address, phone or email address; and
- family members.

You can update the Department via your ImmiAccount or in writing by using Form 1022 *Notification of changes in circumstances*.

Australian Citizenship

Most permanent residents can apply for citizenship after they have:

- Been in Australia on a visa for 4 years; and
- Had a permanent visa for 1 year.

If you spend a lot of time outside Australia, then these time periods are longer. There is more information about citizenship on RAILS' website.