



Frequently asked questions

The Immigration Status Resolution Service provides visa and departure information to those who do not hold a valid visa and Bridging visa E holders. Status resolution officers are the principal point of contact for the Service, providing an outreach service and visiting local communities in metropolitan and regional areas across Australia.

Expired visas

What do I do if my visa has expired?

If your visa has expired and you need more time to organise your departure, you can apply for a Bridging visa E at: immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/expiredvisas.

A Bridging visa E allows you to live in the community lawfully for a short time while you organise your departure from Australia.

Does it matter if my visa expires and I become unlawful?

Yes. If you become unlawful you cannot work, attend school or access Medicare in Australia. If you are working illegally you are at risk of being exploited. You may also be detained and removed by the Australian Border Force.

If you are removed from Australia, you may receive a ban that prevents you from returning to Australia. You could also incur a debt to the Australian Government for the cost of your removal. This debt must be repaid before you can return to Australia.

How can I check if my visa has expired?

Your visa grant letter provides your visa details, including your visa expiry date. If you no longer have a copy of your visa grant letter you can check your visa details and conditions online using [Visa Entitlement Verification Online \(VEVO\)](#). VEVO has details relating to your current visa only. It does not include details about a visa you have applied for, but which has not yet been granted.

Can my employer cancel my visa?

No. Only the Australian Government can cancel your visa if there are reasons to do so.

The *Migration Act 1958* gives reasons for why the Department may cancel your visa. To learn more about this visit: immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/cancelling-a-visa.

Bridging visas

What is the purpose of a Bridging visa E?

A Bridging visa E allows you to stay in Australia lawfully for a short amount of time while you make arrangements to leave the country or finalise your immigration matter.

I hold a Bridging visa E that is about to expire, but I have not made plans to leave Australia. Will I be granted another Bridging visa E?

If your Bridging visa E expires before you have left Australia, you can apply for another one. However, your application may be refused if you are found not to have complied with the conditions of the first Bridging visa, including not making arrangements to leave the country. You may be detained and removed by the Australian Border Force and you could incur a debt to the Australian Government for the cost of your removal.

Consequences of being unlawful in Australia

Can the Australian Border Force detain me if my visa has expired?

Yes. If you are located by the Australian Border Force or police while living here without a valid visa you could be detained and removed from Australia at your own expense.

If your visa has expired, contact the Immigration Status Resolution Service to discuss your situation.

If I am removed from Australia can I get another visa to return after I depart?

If you have been removed by the Australian Border Force your chances of being able to return to Australia may be very limited. Your best chance of being granted another visa to Australia is by leaving voluntarily and applying while you are offshore.

Family members

Can my immigration status impact my family overseas?

Yes. Offshore family members may be refused visitor, student or temporary work visas if a family member in Australia:

- has become unlawful
- holds a Bridging visa E
- has applied for a Protection visa and it has been refused.

Will my visa will be cancelled if I fall pregnant?

No. Your visa will not be cancelled if you fall pregnant. If you are unlawful when your baby is born, your baby will also be unlawful in Australia. You would not be able to access Medicare for yourself or your baby.

Can I become an Australian citizen if I have a baby?

Having a baby in Australia does not provide a pathway to Australian citizenship for the family. If a baby is born in Australia to parents who are living here unlawfully, the baby is also considered unlawful.

Applying for another visa

Someone told me I should apply for an '866 working visa'

A Protection visa (subclass 866) is for asylum seekers — those who face a real risk of significant harm or persecution in their home country. A Protection visa is not for people who just want to stay longer in Australia to work. It is not a work visa.

If you are thinking about applying for a Protection visa, we strongly encourage you to seek free legal advice from a specialist refugee and immigration legal provider. To find more information about Protection visas, and to see a list of free legal providers in each state and territory, visit: immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/protection.

What are the consequences of having an application for a Protection visa refused?

There will be a permanent record on your immigration file.

You will not be allowed to apply for most other visas while you are in Australia. You and your family may find it harder to return to Australia in the future. You may also find it harder to get a visa to another country.

If you have provided false or misleading information or false documents in a Protection visa application, you may face penalties including large fines, possible jail for up to 10 years, or both.

To find more information about Protection visas visit: immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/protection.

When my Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme visa expires, can I apply for another PALM scheme visa and stay in Australia?

No. You must leave Australia to apply for another PALM scheme visa. Failing to leave Australia before your PALM scheme visa expires will be taken into consideration in any future visa applications.

Ministerial intervention

Is a ministerial intervention a type of visa application?

No. A request for ministerial intervention is not a type of visa application. Home Affairs' ministers have intervention powers under the *Migration Act 1958* which allow them to grant a visa to a person if they think it is in the public interest to do so.

Ministers are not required to exercise their power, and what is in the public interest is a matter for them to determine. Home Affairs' ministers are not bound by any timeframes with respect to ministerial intervention requests.

Don't get caught without a valid visa. Let's chat!

Contact an officer from the Immigration Status Resolution Service at: status.resolution@homeaffairs.gov.au, or call the Department on 131 881. If you need interpreting assistance, call 131 450.

More information

For more information about the Immigration Status Resolution Service visit: homeaffairs.gov.au/isrs.



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