



FAMILY REUNION VISAS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH FAMILY IN AFGHANISTAN

The Immigration Advice and Rights Centre (IARC) a specialist, not-for-profit community legal centre providing free immigration advice and assistance to people in New South Wales. The following information is for people in Australia looking for information about visa options for family in Afghanistan.

I am an Australian citizen or permanent resident and have family members in Afghanistan. What visa options are available for them to join me in Australia?

Australian citizens, permanent residents and some New Zealand citizens may be able to sponsor family members for a Family visa or propose them for an Offshore Humanitarian visa.

Family visas

Family visas include Partner, Child and Parent visas as well as Remaining Relative, Aged Dependent Relative and Orphan Relative visas.

Family visas are expensive and can have very long processing times. If you hold a Protection (subclass 866) your application may take even longer. You should seek advice about whether a Family visa is the right option for you before making an application.

Offshore Humanitarian visas

Offshore Humanitarian visas enable people outside Australia who are in need of protection to be settled here.

Australian citizens, permanent residents and some New Zealand citizens may be able to propose a family member in Afghanistan for an In-Country Special Humanitarian (subclass 201) visa. For more information see our [Fact Sheet](#) about Refugee and Humanitarian visas.

Offshore Humanitarian visa applications are free of charge, however only a very small number of applications will be granted. The Australian Government has indicated that it will allocate 3,000 places in Australia's Humanitarian Program to people in Afghanistan.

Where can I get more advice about immigration options for my family in Afghanistan?

IARC provides free immigration advice and assistance on Family and Humanitarian visas to people in New South Wales.

Due to high demand, we are prioritising people with immediate family (partners and children under 18) and close family (children over 18, parents and siblings) in Afghanistan. If you fall within these priority groups please complete our enquiry form at



www.iarc.org.au/afghanistan and someone will contact you to discuss how we may be able to help.

If you are unable to access a computer, you can call us on 02 8234 0700 and leave a message. We will call you back as soon as possible.

I am a temporary visa holder. Am I able to sponsor my family in Afghanistan for an Australian visa?

Temporary visa holders (including Temporary Protection visa (TPV) and Safe Haven Enterprise visa (SHEV) holders are not able to sponsor or propose family members for Australian visas.

I have a family member with a visa application in progress. Is there anything I can do to speed up processing of their application?

Generally, visa applications are processed in the order that they are received. It is not usually possible to speed up the processing but you can provide the Department of Home Affairs with information about your relative's change of circumstances.

If you have an application in process for an immediate family member (partner or child under 18) or close family member (children over 18, parent or sibling), please complete our enquiry form at www.iarc.org.au/afghanistan and someone will contact you to discuss how we may be able to help.

I have a temporary visa which expires soon but it is not safe for me to return to Afghanistan. What are my options?

If your visa is expiring soon or you currently don't have a visa, you should get immigration legal advice as soon as possible.

If you are in New South Wales, you may be eligible for free immigration legal advice from IARC. please complete our enquiry form at www.iarc.org.au/help and someone will contact you to discuss how we may be able to help.

If you are unable to access a computer, you can call us on 02 8234 0700 and leave a message. We will call you back as soon as possible.

Where can I get help?

The following organisations provide free immigration advice:

New South Wales

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| Immigration Advice and Rights Centre | www.iarc.org.au/help | 02 8234 0700 |
| Legal Aid NSW | www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au | 1300 888 529 |
| Refugee Advice and Casework Service (RACS) | www.racs.org.au | 02 8355 7227 |

Victoria

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| Refugee Legal | www.refugeelegal.org.au | 03 9413 0100 |
| Victoria Legal Aid | www.legalaid.vic.gov.au | 1300 792 387 |



HELPING
PEOPLE
NAVIGATE
| AUSTRALIAN
IMMIGRATION LAW

INFO LINE
(02) 8234 0700

EMAIL
info@iarc.org.au

iarc.org.au



[iarcAustralia](https://www.facebook.com/iarcAustralia)

Queensland

Refugee and Immigration Legal Service (RAILS) www.rails.org.au 07 3846 9333

South Australia

Australian Refugee Association www.australianrefugee.org 08 8354 2951

Legal Aid Commission of South Australia www.lsc.sa.gov.au 1300 366 424

Western Australia

Circle Green Community Legal Centre www.circlegreen.org.au 08 6148 3636

Tasmania

Tasmanian Refugee Legal Service www.trls.org.au 03 6169 9473

ACT

Legal Aid ACT www.legalaidact.org.au 1300 654 314



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