

Humanitarian Visas and Travelling Overseas

THIS FACTSHEET IS FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE CLASS XB HUMANITARIAN VISA. This includes the common subclasses of 200, 202 and 204.

If you have a Protection Visa (Subclass 866) a Temporary Protection Visa or a Resolution of Status Visa there are also important things for you to consider before travelling overseas but this factsheet does not explain those things. See these factsheets from RAILS instead:

- Understanding your Protection Visa – for people on a Subclass 866
- Understanding your Resolution of Status Visa – for people on a Subclass 851

Do not travel to your home country

If you have Refugee or Humanitarian Visa (Subclasses 200-204) you should not travel overseas to your home country.

These visas are granted because a person cannot live safely in the country they were born or the country they are a citizen of. If you travel back to that country, Home Affairs may think that the information you gave, which said you were in danger, was false. This could lead Home Affairs to consider cancelling your visa.

If you do travel to your home country and later receive a Notice of Intention to Consider Cancellation of your visa, you should get legal advice urgently.

Do not use passport from your home country

If you have a Refugee 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 Home Affairs would say you are seeking the protection of the country that you said would harm you.

This may also 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
- you take up citizenship of another country (unless dual citizenship is allowed); and
- you commit terrorism-related offences.

What is Convention Travel Document?

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.

Unfortunately, not all countries will allow you to enter on a CTD. This means there are some countries you will not be able to visit until you become an Australian citizen and can get an Australian passport. You should check with the Embassy of the country that you are visiting before you travel to see if the country will accept CTD and if you will need a visa.

Do I need a visa to come back to Australia?

Before you leave Australia, it's also important to check that you will be allowed to return here. Your Refugee or Humanitarian Visa stay in Australia indefinitely but only to return to Australia for 5 years from the date it was granted. If you travel outside Australia after this (and you're not an Australian citizen), you will need to apply for a 'Resident Return Visa' before you leave.

Home Affairs has more information about [Resident Return Visas](#) and how to apply for them.

This factsheet is general information not legal advice. You should always speak to a lawyer before applying for a visa, sponsoring someone or doing anything that might affect your immigration status. Last updated 4 September 2026.

