

BVE for people who arrived by Boat

Bridging Visa E for Illegal Maritime Arrivals

A Bridging Visa E ('BVE') allows you to stay in the community while you are waiting for your Protection Visa application to be considered or for permission to apply.

Generally, if you came by boat, you will need the permission of the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs (the 'Minister') to get a new BVE. The Minister can grant a BVE under s 195A of the *Migration Act 1958*.

How to get a new Bridging Visa

Contact the Department of Home Affairs (the 'Department') to ask about how and when you can get a new Bridging Visa.

Lodge your application

- Online – ImmiAccount
- Email
- In person or by post to [the Visa & Citizenship Office](#).

Have you signed the Code of Behaviour?

You must sign the Code of Behaviour before you can be granted a new Bridging Visa. The Code of Behaviour for a BVE is in [Form 1443](#).

[Form 1443](#) can be found on the Department of Home Affairs website:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/form-listing/forms/1443.pdf>

Any breach of this Code of Behaviour can be a ground for cancellation.

Conditions of Bridging Visa

You must follow the conditions of your visa:

- **Condition 8401:** illegal maritime arrival (IMAs) must report at a time and place specified (in the grant letter) by the Minister.
- **Condition 8506:** must notify a change of address within 2 working days.
 - [Form 929](#) send to 929@homeaffairs.gov.au;
 - ImmiAccount.
- **Condition 8564:** must not engage in criminal conduct.
- IMAs are to carry an IMMICARD- immigration status card.
- You cannot leave Australia and re-enter. If you do, your BVE will be cancelled.

Reporting to the Department

One of the conditions – **condition 8401**— is that you must report to the Department.

When to report

The Department will usually give you the date on which you must report. This date will be in the letter granting you a Bridging Visa.

How to report

The letter granting you the visa, will specify the details of how, when and where to report.

Do I have work rights?

Check Vevo

You can check whether you have work rights by checking the Department of Home Affairs Visa Entitlement Verification Online (Vevo)

BVE for people who arrived by Boat

Look at your Bridging Visa letter

Look for **condition 8101** 'No Work' under the 'Conditions' section. If there is a condition 8101, then you do not have the right to work. If there is no 8101, then you have the right to work.

Expiry of BVE after an IAA decision

If you have lodged a Protection Visa application, your Bridging Visa won't expire until a decision has been made on your case.

It will expire **28 days** after you are notified of a decision by the Immigration Assessment Authority (IAA).

If you are appealing a negative decision by the IAA, you are able to make another application for a Bridging Visa.

You must do this before your Bridging Visa expires. If you don't, you could be detained.

Will I still have work rights after a decision by IAA?

As a general rule, if work rights were granted previously, work rights will also be granted on the BVE while waiting for the outcome of an appeal to the Federal Circuit Court.

Medicare

On your BVE you should be eligible to apply for and hold a Medicare card. To apply for a Medicare Card you will need to visit a Medicare Service Centre.

You will need:

- The letter granting you BE; and
- Immicard.

ImmiCard

Your Immicard will be sent to your residential address when your Bridging Visa is granted. Please make sure your address is recorded properly.

To issue a new Immicard, you need to order a replacement online and this will be sent to your residential address.

Useful Contacts

Legal Aid ACT

9.00am-4.00pm Monday-Friday

www.legalaidact.org.au

Phone: **1300 654 314**

Migration Agents Registration Authority (MARA)

www.mara.gov.au

Migration Clinic – Legal Aid ACT

www.legalaidact.org.au

Phone: **1300 654 314**

Email: migration@legalaidact.org.au

This factsheet was originally developed by the Refugee Advice & Casework Service Sydney (RACS) (www.racs.org.au).

This factsheet is a guide only and is not legal advice. While due care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the material contained in this factsheet, Legal Aid ACT and the Refugee Advice & Casework Service Sydney cannot take responsibility for any errors or omissions.