



Information about the final departure Bridging E Visa

Why have I received a final departure Bridging E Visa?

You have received a final departure Bridging E Visa, as you have come to Australia for medical treatment from a regional processing country and have not returned. The Australian Government has made the decision that you are no longer entitled to government welfare support including accommodation and income support.

What is a final departure BVE?

A final departure BVE allows you to reside in the Australian community temporarily while you finalise your arrangements to leave Australia. Your bridging visa has conditions. You must comply with these conditions.

You will be expected to support yourself in the community until departing Australia. The final departure BVE carries work rights for your remaining time in Australia. You need to prepare to return to a regional processing country or any country where you have a right of residence.

A final departure BVE is not a pathway to permanent settlement in Australia. Anyone on a final departure BVE is required to make arrangements to leave Australia. The Australian Government's policy is clear – anyone who attempts to enter Australia illegally by boat will never be permitted to settle in Australia. You are not eligible to apply for a Temporary Protection Visa (TPV) or a Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV) in Australia.

Will I receive any support?

Your income support will cease from **Monday 28 August**.

The temporary support you receive will include access to a community case worker who can give you information about life in the Australian community.

Some of your healthcare costs will continue to be paid for by Australia's public health care scheme, Medicare. You can access Medicare by presenting your bridging visa grant letter at a Medicare Office and registering for a Medicare card.

In the next three weeks you need to move out of government supported accommodation.

From **Monday 28 August** you will need to find money each week for your own accommodation costs. From this date you will also be responsible for all your other living costs like food, clothing and transport.

What is the *Code of Behaviour*?

You are expected to sign the *Code of Behaviour* when you are released into the Australian community. The *Code of Behaviour* outlines how you are to behave in the community. There can be serious consequences if you do not follow the *Code of Behaviour* or your other bridging visa conditions. Even if you do not sign the *Code of Behaviour* there is still a requirement for you to comply with all Australian laws.

Can I go home?

Yes, you can go home at any time. If you are thinking about going home, you can request assistance from the Department or the International Organization for Migration (IOM). You might be eligible for assistance to return home and re-establish your life there. To find out more information about returning home phone IOM on **1300 116 986** (local call cost) or visit www.iomaustralia.org

Can I return to a regional processing country?

Yes, you can do this at any time by contacting your Status Resolution Officer (SRO).

Can I work?

Yes, your visa grant letter will state that you are allowed to work. Please speak to your community case worker for advice about how to find work in Australia. If you cannot find work to support yourself in Australia you will need to return to a regional processing country or any country where you have a right of residence.

Can I study?

No. You are not permitted to study if over 18 years of age. That is a condition of the bridging visa.

Do I need to stay in contact with the Department?

Yes, while on a final departure Bridging E Visa you must report to the Department every two weeks via telephone. When you report to the immigration Department, you must call **1800 847 665** or go to an immigration office if you are told to. You must remain in contact with the Department and keep your contact details up to date.

Can my children still attend school?

School-aged children will continue to have access to education while you are on a bridging visa living in the community. Please remind your children that they will also be required to abide by Australian values and laws. Breaking Australian laws may result in their removal from the community.

Can I move around Australia?

You can choose where you live in Australia while you are on bridging visa. You must inform the Department at least two business days before you move to a new address.

Can I travel overseas?

You can leave Australia at any time but you will not be permitted to re-enter Australia.

Where can I get information and help?

For more information you can speak to your Status Resolution Officer who will be able to answer your questions or help you find information.