

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: TEMPORARY HUMANITARIAN VISA PATHWAY FOR PALESTINIAN AND ISRAELI NATIONALS

Palestinians in Australia on temporary visas who are unable to return home due to the crisis in the Middle East will be offered a new visa pathway through a Temporary (Humanitarian Stay) (UJ 449) and Temporary (Humanitarian Concern) (subclass 786) visa.

Israeli nationals in Australia on temporary visas who are unable to return home due to the crisis in the Middle East can express interest in being offered a new visa pathway through a Temporary (Humanitarian Stay) (UJ 449) and Temporary (Humanitarian Concern) (subclass 786) visa.

This information sheet explains:

- Information about the Temporary (Humanitarian Stay) (UJ 449) and Temporary (Humanitarian Concern) (subclass 786) visas; and
- How to get free legal help.

What are the 449 and 786 visas?

- The 449 visa is a short-term visa that gives the holder the rights to work, study, travel and access settlement supports and social services. 449 visa holders cannot access Medicare.
- The subclass 786 visa is a 3 year visa that gives holders the right to Medicare, work, study and access settlement supports and social services. Subclass 786 holders can request permission to travel internationally in compelling and compassionate circumstances.

What is the process for applying for the 449 and 786 visas?

- The Government will offer a pathway to transition to the 449 and 786 visas to eligible Palestinian and Israeli nationals who are in Australia and who are unable to return home due to the crisis in the Middle East. You can also submit an expression of interest to the Government to receive the offer sooner;
- You cannot apply for the visas without first receiving an offer from the Australian Government.
- If you are offered this pathway and you accept the offer, you will first be granted the 449 visa, and shortly after a 786 visa. You need to meet health, character and security criteria.
- There is no fee to apply for the visas but you may need to pay for medical examinations required for the visa grant.

Impact on other visa applications

- Receiving an offer for the 449/786 visas affects eligibility for other types of visas. For example, if you receive an offer for the 449/786 visas you cannot meet the criteria for a protection visa (subclass 866). Your eligibility for other visas will be affected whether or not you accept the offer of the 449/786.

If I receive an offer for the 449/786 pathway do I have to accept it?

- You do not have to accept the offer, however once you receive the offer you may be unable to meet the criteria for another visa pathway. We can answer your questions and provide free legal advice about your decision.

What happens at the end of the 3 years?

- It is the current Government's intention to consider a permanent visa pathway during the 3 year period of the 786 visa.

How to get legal help

Refugee Legal can provide **free**, independent and confidential legal advice about this process. Interpreters are available in your language.

For free legal help in Victoria, Northern Territory and South Australia, contact Refugee Legal's Israel-Gaza Hotline - Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm on (03) 9413 0107. For further information and resources visit www.refugeelegal.org.au