

Refugee Legal:

INFORMATION SHEET

Legal assistance for subclass 449 visa holders from Afghanistan to apply for permanent visas

This information sheet explains how people evacuated from Afghanistan who hold a subclass 449 Humanitarian Stay (Temporary) visa can get legal help to apply for permanent residence in Australia.

How to apply for permanent residency

If you were evacuated from Afghanistan and have a subclass 449 visa, you will be eligible to apply for a permanent visa.

You must make sure the Department of Home Affairs (the Department) has up-to-date contact details for you, including your telephone number, email and postal address.

At some time during 2022, the Department will send you a letter giving you permission to apply for a permanent visa.

You will only have 7 working days to lodge your permanent visa application from the date of the Department's letter. **The strict 7 working day deadline cannot be extended so you must act urgently.**

You do not need to wait for the Department's letter to seek legal help. It is best to seek legal assistance **early**.

If you live in Victoria, Refugee Legal can provide full, free application assistance to subclass 449 visa holders from Afghanistan who apply for Refugee and Humanitarian visas in Australia.

Full free legal assistance includes:

- Completion of all forms required by the Department; **and**
- a statement explaining why the person is unable to return to Afghanistan; **and**
- attendance at interviews at the Department; **and**
- legal submissions that may be required.

Interpreters will be available for any person who needs interpreting assistance.

How to get legal help

For free legal assistance, contact the **Afghanistan Legal Hotline** - Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm on **(03) 9413 0166**.

For further information and resources visit www.refugeelegal.org.au.

Refugee Legal:
Defending the rights
of refugees.

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