

Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV) Pathways and Requirements

Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV) Pathways and Requirements

Who is this Infosheet for?

This Infosheet provides an overview of the pathways to other visas for holders of the Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV). It also provides useful information for people who have applied or are considering applying for a SHEV.

IMPORTANT

- **A SHEV is a temporary visa that lasts for 5 years. It allows you to work and study in Australia, and access government services such as Centrelink and Medicare.**
- **If you meet the SHEV Pathway Requirements, you may be eligible to apply for certain permanent visas, but you cannot apply for a Permanent Protection Visa (PPV).**
- You do not have to meet the SHEV Pathway Requirements unless you want to be eligible to apply for a permanent visa once your SHEV expires. There is no penalty for not meeting the Pathway Requirements.
- There are a number of concessions to help applicants satisfy the Pathway Requirements due to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. For more information on these concessions and how it may affect your SHEV, visit:
<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/safe-haven-enterprise-790/safe-haven-enterprise-visa-pathway>.

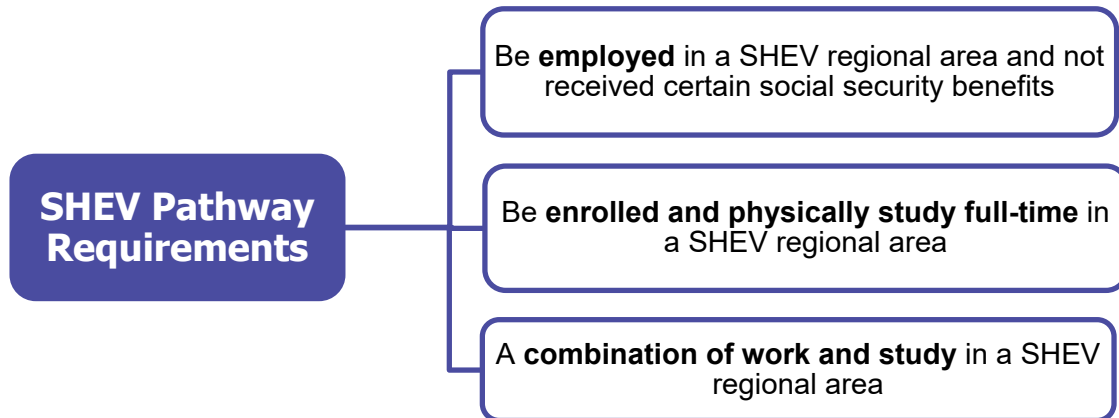
What is a SHEV?

A SHEV is a temporary visa lasting for a total of 5 years. It allows you to work and study in Australia, and access government services such as Centrelink and Medicare, and short-term counselling. Upon expiry, you can apply for another SHEV or a Temporary Protection Visa (TPV).

If you have met the SHEV Pathway Requirements, you may also be eligible to apply for certain permanent visas such as Family visas, Student visas or Skilled visas. **The SHEV offers a pathway to permanent residency in Australia for those who can meet the Pathway Requirements and are also able to meet the eligibility criteria for one of the relevant permanent visas. Meeting the SHEV pathway does not allow you to apply for a Permanent Protection Visa (PPV).**

What are the SHEV Pathway Requirements?

There are **three ways** to satisfy the Pathway Requirements:



You do not have to satisfy the SHEV Pathway Requirements unless you want to be eligible to apply for a permanent visa. There are no penalties if you don't meet the Pathway Requirements, and it is not a condition of the SHEV that you do so.

SHEV regional areas

The Department of Home Affairs (DHA) designates certain areas of Australia as SHEV regional areas. You can see a full list of SHEV regional areas [here](#). You will not have to live in a SHEV regional area to satisfy the Pathway Requirements unless you are attending a primary or secondary school. These requirements may also be affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Work pathway

One way to satisfy the Pathway Requirements is to be employed in a SHEV regional area for a total of 3 ½ years (42 months), or some other amount of time combined with full-time study in a SHEV regional area for 42 months. The work you do has to be:

- Lawful;
- Paid;
- In a SHEV regional area; and
- Either full-time, part-time, temporary, casual, seasonal, or self-employed (or a combination).

The work does not have to be continuous, and you can take breaks from work; each calendar month you work will count towards the Pathway Requirements. You must be able to provide evidence of work, such as pay slips, employment contracts or agreements, bank statements or time sheets.

A period of work will only count towards satisfying the Pathway Requirements if you did not receive Special Benefit payments during that time (unless a COVID19 concession applies). The Special Benefit payment is given to people who are not eligible for any other income support and who are in severe financial hardship. There are certain social security benefits you can receive while working that still enable that work to count towards satisfying the Pathway Requirements, such as a

Low Income Health Care Card, parental leave pay, and family tax benefits. You should seek legal advice before claiming a social security benefit while trying to meet the Pathway Requirements.

Generally, **you can live in a different area to where you work, provided that where you work is in a SHEV regional area.**

Study pathway

Another way to meet the Pathway Requirements is to study and physically attend a place of education in a SHEV regional area for a total of 3 ½ years (42 months), or some other amount of time combined with lawful work in a SHEV regional area for 42 months. The study you undertake must be either:

- On campus of an education provider located in a SHEV regional area, studying a maximum of one course leading to a Certificate I, and/or one or more courses leading to a Certificate II or above; or
 - This means that if you study multiple courses that all lead to a Certificate I, only one of them will be counted for the purposes of the Pathway Requirements.
 - Any course you study must be accredited by the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). Speak with your university or TAFE as to whether their courses are nationally recognised by the AQF.
 - You may also be able to participate in an apprenticeship depending on your course.
- At a primary school, high school or college in a SHEV regional area for a minimum of 161 weeks (consistent with 3 ½ standard academic years), studying full-time.

You can study remotely for certain periods, but the course or schooling you undertake cannot be entirely online or an external study basis.

If you or a family member are attending a primary school, high school or college, you must live in a SHEV regional area. If you are studying at university or TAFE, you do not need to live in a SHEV regional area.

You must be able to provide evidence of your study, such as confirmation of your enrolment, academic transcripts, and evidence of satisfactory course completion (certificates, diplomas, degrees etc). **SHEV holders are not eligible for Commonwealth funding for education after high school.** You will have to pay the rates of an international student, and generally you will not qualify for Special Benefit payments.

How has COVID-19 impacted the SHEV Pathway Requirements?

In recognition of the ongoing impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Australian Government has made a number of **COVID-19 Concessions** to SHEV holders trying to meet the Pathway Requirements. These concessions are:

- SHEV holders can access Special Benefit payments for a period and have that time be counted towards the SHEV Pathway Requirements;
- Periods of unemployment will be counted towards the SHEV Pathway Requirements, meaning if you lose your job or can't find a job, those periods of time will still be counted for the 3 ½ year total;

- SHEV holders can work outside a SHEV regional area to provide an essential service and this work will be counted towards the SHEV Pathway Requirements.

What types of visas can I apply for once I meet the SHEV Pathway Requirements?

Once you have satisfied the SHEV pathway requirements, you can apply for one of the listed visas and attach to your application [Form 1465](#) with evidence of your relevant study and employment.¹ **Every visa is subject to health, security and character checks in addition to other eligibility criteria.**² You must make sure you meet the eligibility criteria before applying for one of the below visas.

Skilled visas

Skilled visas allow people with higher education or significant experience or skill in a particular field or industry to remain in Australia and contribute to their field.

Visa	Eligibility	Application Cost (approx.)
Skilled Independent (subclass 189)	To be eligible for this visa, you must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be invited to apply by the DHA; • Have an occupation classified as a skilled occupation (healthcare, engineering, research, etc); • Be able to meet the skills requirement; • Have a sufficient level of fluency in English. 	AUD \$4,045
Skilled Nominated (subclass 190)	To be eligible for this visa, you must meet the eligibility criteria described above. You must also be nominated for this visa by an Australian state or territory government agency.	AUD \$4,045
Skilled Recognised Graduate (subclass 476)	To be eligible for this visa, you must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be under 31 years of age; • Have completed an engineering degree at a specified university in the past 2 years; • Have a sufficient level of fluency in English. 	AUD \$405
Training (subclass 407)	To be eligible for this visa, you must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be sponsored; • Be nominated or invited to apply for this visa; • Be visiting Australia to complete workplace-based training or a professional development training program. 	AUD \$310

¹ You may also be eligible to apply for the following visas:

- Global Talent (subclass 858);
- Business Talent (subclass 132);
- Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) (subclass 188).

² Some of these visas are only temporary, so you should carefully consider your options before applying.

Visa	Eligibility	Application Cost (approx.)
Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) (subclass 491)	To be eligible for this visa, you must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be nominated to apply for this visa, or be sponsored; ● Have an occupation classified as a skilled occupation (healthcare, engineering, research, etc); ● Be able to meet the skills requirement; ● Intend to live, work and study in a regional area of Australia. 	AUD \$4,045

Employer-sponsored visas

Employer-sponsored visas allow employers to sponsor applicants who will be employed by the employer in Australia.

Visa	Eligibility	Application Cost (approx.)
Employer Nomination Scheme (subclass 186)	To be eligible for this visa, you must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be nominated by an Australian employer; ● Have an occupation classified as a skilled occupation (healthcare, engineering, research, etc); ● Have a sufficient level of fluency in English. 	AUD \$4,045
Temporary Skill Shortage visa (subclass 482)	To be eligible for this visa, you must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be nominated by an Australian employer; ● Have an occupation that is desired by the Australian Government due to skills shortages in a particular industry. 	AUD \$2,645
Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) (subclass 494)	To be eligible for this visa, you must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be nominated by an approved work sponsor; ● Have an occupation classified as a skilled occupation (healthcare, engineering, research, etc); ● Be able to meet the skills requirement; ● Have a sufficient level of fluency in English; ● Intend to live, work and study in a regional area of Australia. 	AUD \$4,045

Student visas

Student visas allow students in primary school, high school, or university to live in Australia to complete their studies.

Visa	Eligibility	Application Cost (approx.)
Student (subclass 500)	To be eligible for this visa, you must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be enrolled in a course of study in Australia; ● Hold Overseas Student Health Cover, unless exempt; ● If you are under 18, have a welfare arrangement in place to have someone care for you during your stay; ● If you are already in Australia, you must hold a substantive visa (not a Bridging Visa) at the time of application. 	AUD \$620
Student Guardian (subclass 590)	To be eligible for this visa, you must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be the parent, guardian or relative of a student in Australia who is on a Student Visa; ● Be able to financially support yourself and the student during your stay; ● Be able to provide accommodation, welfare and other support for the student. 	AUD \$620

Family visas

Family visas are visas designed to allow families to stay together or reunite in Australia, and most often require the applicant to be sponsored by a relative that is already in Australia. You may be eligible for the following family visas:

Visa	Eligibility	Application Cost (approx.)
Partner visas		
Partner (subclass 820/subclass 801)	<p>You must hold a temporary Partner Visa (subclass 820) to be eligible to apply for a permanent Partner Visa (subclass 801) (unless exemptions apply).</p> <p>To be eligible for a temporary Partner Visa (subclass 820), you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be in a genuine relationship with your spouse or partner; ● Your partner is an Australian or New Zealand citizen, or Australian permanent resident; 	AUD \$7,715

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a sponsor (usually your partner); • Be above the age of 18 at the time of application. 	
Child visas		
Visa	Eligibility	Application Cost (approx.)
Child (subclass 802)	<p>To be eligible for this visa, you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a dependent child of a parent who is an Australian or New Zealand citizen, or Australian permanent resident; • Be under 18 years of age, or a full-time student aged between 18-25, or over 18 and be unable to work due to a disability; • Be single and dependent on your parent; • Be in Australia when the application is made and decided. 	AUD \$2,665
Dependent Child (subclass 445)	<p>To be eligible for this visa, you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a dependent child of a parent that has applied for a Partner Visa (subclass 801); • Be sponsored by your parent or another person. 	AUD \$2,665
Parent and carer visas		
Visa	Eligibility	Application Cost (approx.)
Contributory Parent (subclass 143)	<p>To be eligible for this visa, you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have an eligible child who is a settled Australian or New Zealand citizen, or Australian permanent resident; • Meet the balance-of-family test, meaning more than half of your children are in Australia at the time of application; • Have an assurance of support from a relative; • Not have already applied for or hold a Sponsored Parent (Temporary) (subclass 870) visa at the time of application. 	AUD \$47,755
Aged Parent (subclass 804)	<p>To be eligible for this visa, you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have an eligible child who is a settled Australian or New Zealand citizen, or Australian permanent resident; • Be old enough to receive the pension in Australia; 	AUD \$6,415

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the balance-of-family test, meaning more than half of your children are in Australia at the time of application; • Have an assurance of support from a relative; • Not have already applied for or hold a Sponsored Parent (Temporary) (subclass 870) visa at the time of application. 	
Contributory Aged Parent (subclass 864)	To be eligible for this visa, you must meet the eligibility criteria described above. However, this visa is generally processed more quickly than the Aged Parent (subclass 804) visa.	AUD \$47,755
Contributory Aged Parent (Temporary) (subclass 884)	To be eligible for this visa, you must meet the eligibility criteria described above for the Aged Parent visa, and be in Australia at the time of application or when the DHA decides your application. However, this visa is generally processed more quickly than the Aged Parent (subclass 804) visa.	AUD \$33,285
Carer (subclass 836)	To be eligible for this visa, you must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in Australia at the time of application and when the DHA decides your application; • Be a carer for your relative or a member of their family who has no reasonable access to care in Australia; • Be sponsored by your relative or their partner for your first 2 years in Australia. 	AUD \$3,860
Relative visas		
Visa	Eligibility	Application Cost (approx.)
Remaining Relative (subclass 835)	To be eligible for this visa, you must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in Australia at the time of application and when the DHA decides your application; • Be the only remaining relative of an Australian or New Zealand citizen or Australian permanent resident (meaning you do not have any other relative/s apart from ones that already live in Australia); • Have an assurance of support from a relative. 	AUD \$6,415
Orphan Relative (subclass 837)	To be eligible for this visa, you must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in Australia at the time of application and when the DHA decides your application; • Be under 18 years of age and single; 	AUD \$1,630

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have no parents that can care for you, either due to their death or absence, or them being unable to care for you; • Have a relative who is an Australian or New Zealand citizen or Australian permanent resident that can care for you instead. 	
Aged Dependent Relative (subclass 838)	<p>To be eligible for this visa, you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in Australia at the time of application and when the DHA decides your application; • Rely on a relative that lives in Australia for financial support; • Be sponsored by that relative or their partner. 	AUD \$6,415

Important information to know about obtaining a permanent visa

There are a number of factors that will influence whether you are able to obtain a permanent visa after meeting the Pathway Requirements. You should consider these factors before applying for your SHEV, and during its duration.

Processing times

Some visas take a very long time to be processed, usually between 13-19 months or longer depending on the visa. You should check the processing times before applying for a visa.

Cost

It can be very costly to apply for certain visas, particularly family visas. You may also require bonds or assurances of support from sponsors in Australia for certain visas. You should consider these costs before deciding to apply.

Eligibility

You must satisfy the eligibility criteria for the visa you wish to apply for, in addition to satisfying the SHEV Pathway Requirements. For example, a number of family visas require you to have a sponsor who is your child, parent or partner living in Australia and who is an Australian or New Zealand citizen or permanent resident. If your sponsor does not satisfy these criteria, you will not be able to apply for that visa. Your eligibility for a visa may also vary depending on whether you satisfy the health, security and character checks, and any additional requirements.

Only one member of the family unit needs to meet the SHEV pathway requirements, and then other family members who were included in the SHEV application can also be included in the permanent visa application, providing they continue to be in the family unit and meet the definition of a dependent.

Disclaimer: This fact sheet provides general information to people seeking asylum in Australia through the onshore protection visa application process according to the law in June 2021. This fact sheet is not legal advice. You should not rely on this fact sheet to make decisions about your immigration matter. We strongly recommend that you get independent advice from a qualified legal practitioner or a registered migration agent. For information please visit: <https://www.mara.gov.au>.