

INFORMATION SHEET

Legal Assistance for 'Fast Track' Applicants - to be interviewed by 30 June 2021

This information sheet outlines key information for people who have applied for their first Temporary Protection visa (TPV) or Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV) under the Federal Government's Fast Track Assessment process but who have not yet been interviewed about their application.

The Department of Home Affairs (**the Department**) has indicated that everyone in this situation will be interviewed by 30 June 2021. **It is essential that anyone in this situation seeks urgent legal assistance.**

Who will be invited to attend an interview?

If you have applied for a TPV or SHEV between 2015 and 2017 and have **not** attended a Protection visa interview with the Department, you are likely to be invited to attend an interview before 30 June 2021. The Department will write to you providing details of the time and place for your interview.

What is a Protection visa interview?

The interview is a critical opportunity for you to explain to an officer of the Department **why** you fear you would be harmed if you are forced to return to your home country, and to **provide any additional information to support your case.**

It is very important that you attend this interview. It is likely to be **your only** opportunity to explain your case in an interview.

What should you do now?

If you have not yet been interviewed about your first TPV/SHEV application, it is essential that you:

1. **Ensure the Department has your current contact details** to make sure that you receive the invitation letter to your interview. Our organisations can assist you to do this.
2. **Obtain legal assistance** as soon as possible about preparation for your interview. For legal assistance, please contact one of our organisations listed below and forward to us any documents you may have in relation to your TPV/SHEV application.
3. **Gather updated information and evidence about your case.** After talking with you about your case, we can advise you about the types of evidence you should collect and provide to the Department.

PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE ORGANISATIONS BELOW FOR FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Refugee Legal Ph. 03 9413 0101 or email clinic@refugeelegal.org.au from 9am to 5pm on weekdays (for people in Victoria and South Australia)
ASRC Ph. [0478 700 605](tel:0478700605) on Monday or Thursday between 10:30am to 12pm or email legal@asrc.org.au and include 'Waiting for Department interview' in the subject line (for people in Victoria and South Australia)
RACS Ph. (02) 8355 7227 Monday – Friday, 10am – 1pm, 2pm- 4pm or email admin@racs.org.au (for people in New South Wales and the Northern Territory)
CIRCLE GREEN Ph. 08 6148 3648, email migration@circlegreen.org.au or Drop in service – Asylum Seeker Hub every Tuesday from 2pm – 5pm located at Riverview Church 1 Thorogood Road, Burswood (for people in Western Australia)
RLS TAS Tasmanian Refugee Legal Service Ph. 03 6169 9473 or email info@trls.org.au open from 9am to 5pm, weekdays (for people in Tasmania)
RAILS Ph (07) 3846 9300 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday-Friday or email (preferred) paralegal2@rails.org.au (for people in Queensland)