

Info Sheet - Seeking help for people in Afghanistan



- how to seek help from Afghanistan
- how to seek help on behalf of someone in Afghanistan
- how to get visa advice for people currently living in Australia, originally from Afghanistan

WHO IS THIS INFO SHEET FOR?

- People currently living in Afghanistan who need information to seek asylum
- People currently living in Australia who need information for family members currently living in Afghanistan who wish to seek asylum
- People currently living in Australia, originally from Afghanistan needing visa support and advice

IF YOU ARE IN AFGHANISTAN

We recommend that people in Afghanistan contact Awaaz Afghanistan which provides a toll-free, countrywide hotline number (410) that affected populations can dial to access information.

Awaaz establish referral pathways with partners and share cases requiring attention (in agreement with the affected person) in a timely manner so that the humanitarian response can be swift.

Awaaz is open seven days a week, has male and female agents available who can speak Dari, Pashto, Urdu, English, and more.

For more information, please refer to their website at <https://awaazaf.org/>

IF YOU ARE IN AUSTRALIA

For people from Afghanistan who are in Australia and seeking advice about visa options for themselves, please contact the ASRC Legal triage line on 0478 700 605 between 10:30am-12:00pm Monday & Thursday or email legal@asrc.org.au with subject line "Afghanistan: Onshore visa help needed". Please provide your contact phone number and a brief outline of your situation, and we will call you back as soon as possible.

For people in Victoria looking for advice regarding possible visa options for loved ones affected by the crisis in Afghanistan who are outside of Australia (page 2), while the ASRC does not directly provide this legal assistance, we recommend contacting Refugee Legal (VIC), or one of the private practitioners listed on Page 2, who assist with offshore family and special humanitarian visa categories.

For people who are interstate in Australia (page 4), we recommend they contact RACS (NSW - www.racs.org.au), IARC (NSW - <https://iarc.org.au>), RAILS (QLD - www.rails.org.au), Circle Green (WA - <https://circlegreen.org.au>) or TRLS (TAS - www.trls.org.au). More information on Page 4.

- Refugee Legal (VIC): Call 03 9413 0100 between 10.00-14.00 Wednesdays and Fridays
- RACS (NSW): Telephone advice: Monday – Friday 10am – 1pm or 2pm – 4pm on 02 8355 7227 or email admin@racs.org.au with your name and phone number and they will call you back
- IARC (NSW) Call (02) 8234 0700
- RAILS (QLD): Email admin@rails.org.au or call on (07) 3846 9300.
- Green Circle (WA) call (08) 6148 3636
- TRLS (TAS) Phone (03) 61699473 email info@trls.org.au

Legal Referral Sheet - Victoria

Free Legal Help

If you need of legal assistance and/or representation and can't afford to pay for a lawyer, you can call the following telephone advice lines:

Refugee Legal (formerly RILC)

Refugee Legal specialises in free legal advice and representation in relation to refugee and general immigration matters. Refugee Legal provides free legal advice and representation in relation to protection visa applicants and other general immigration matters at primary and merits review stages, as well as in visa cancellation matters.

Advice line: (03) 9413 0100 – available Wednesdays & Fridays from 10am to 2pm

Victoria Legal Aid (VLA)

VLA has a range of services to help people with their legal problems. A Victoria Legal Aid lawyer may be able to give you general information about applying for a protection visa, and may also be able to help with applications for judicial review (Federal Circuit Court).

Advice line: 1300 792 387 – available Monday to Friday from 8.45 am to 5.15 pm

Paid Legal Services

The lawyers listed below may help you with your immigration matter. They will charge fees for their assistance, called legal fees or professional fees.

A lawyer must give you a 'costs agreement.' This document is your legal contract with your lawyer and explains how much money you must pay, when you must pay it, and what you can expect from your lawyer.

The ASRC recommends the lawyers below for assistance in relation to:

- Protection visa applications and interviews at the Department of Immigration;
- Administrative Appeals Tribunal review applications;
- Federal Circuit Court, Federal Court and High Court;
- Humanitarian requests to the Minister of Immigration;
- Family visas, skilled visas, work visas and student visas;
- Complex health and character matters.
- Visa cancellations and responses to adverse information.

Name	Phone	Email	Location
Carina Ford Immigration Lawyers	(03) 9396 0207	office@carinafordlawyers.com	Footscray
Clothier Anderson & Associates	(03) 9347 4022	info@clothieranderson.com.au	Carlton
PB & B Immigration Lawyers	(03) 9381 0770 0411 612 247	enquiries@pbblawyers.com.au	Brunswick
Mary Hanna Lawyers	(03) 9077 6362	info@hjlawyers.com.au	Coburg
Abode Migration Lawyers	(03) 9607 8362	info@abodemigration.com.au	Melbourne CBD or Springvale
Kerdo Legal	(03) 9416 7760	admin@migration-lawyers.net.au	Preston
Playfair Visa and Migration Services	(03) 8763 3040	info@playfair.com.au	Dandenong
Erskinerodan & Associates	(03) 9329 8744	info@erskinerodan.com.au	North Melbourne
WLW Migration Lawyers	(03) 9088 6264	info@wlwlawyers.com.au	West Melbourne

Migration agents and lawyers who practise in immigration must be registered with the Office of Migration Agents Registration Authority to give you advice. See <https://www.mara.gov.au/> Only use a registered migration agent.

Immigration Advice and Assistance Scheme (IAAAS)

If you arrived in Australia by plane with a valid visa, and need assistance at the primary stage of the refugee determination process (i.e. applying for a protection visa at the Department of Home Affairs), you can contact Settlement Services International, who may be able to refer you for free legal assistance.

You will only be eligible for IAAAS if you can demonstrate that you would have difficulties navigating the legal process yourself. Please speak with our Triage team if you think you may be eligible for this service.

Name	Phone	Email
Settlement Services International	1800 932 082	Apply online: http://www.ssi.org.au/iaaas-online-referral-form

Legal Referral Sheet - Interstate

If you require legal assistance and/or representation for your immigration matter and you live outside of Victoria, ASRC cannot assist you. You can contact the lawyers listed below for help.

Legal Aid

Legal Aid gives free legal advice and assistance. Generally, Legal Aid helps people with legal problems in areas of criminal law, family law and some civil law matters.

Only some Legal Aid offices may help with immigration or refugee law. For legal advice in your state or territory, go to this website and click on the map:

www.nationallegalaid.org

Community Legal Centres

Community Legal Centres (CLCs) are independent, not-for-profit community organisations that provide legal and related services to people who are disadvantaged or have special needs. CLCs may provide general advice on different legal problems, or specific advice on a particular area of law. Most CLCs only help people who live in their area – to search for a CLC near you, go to this website and click on “I need legal help”:

www.naclc.org.au

Migration Agents Registration Authority

Migration agents and lawyers who practise in immigration must be registered with the Office of Migration Agents Registration Authority to give you advice. Only use a registered migration agent.

www.mara.gov.au

New South Wales (NSW)

Refugee Advice and Casework Services (RACS)

RACS provides free, expert legal service for people seeking asylum in Australia who arrived by plane or by boat. RACS can provide advice and support for people lodging visa applications (including Fast Track) and appeals to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. RACS does not provide advice about Judicial Review (i.e. appeals to the courts). From July 2016 RACS will be running judicial review clearinghouse service for Fast Track IAA refusals with client intake preferably via a person's SRSS caseworker.

To access RACS Legal help

1. Telephone Advice: 10am-11.30am on Tuesdays only
2. Drop in to 4 Victoria Road, Arrupe Place, Parramatta is available twice a week: on Mondays 10am-12pm and Fridays from 10am-12pm
3. Drop in to 44A Macquarie Road, Auburn is on Wednesdays from 10am-12pm
4. Warm referrals (via email) for plane arrivals at Department or tribunal stage via SRSS caseworkers at any time

Phone: (02) 8355 7227
Email: admin@racs.org.au
Website: www.racs.org.au
1-3 Eurimbla Avenue
Randwick NSW 2031

Legal Aid NSW

The Immigration Service is a specialist service of Legal Aid NSW. They provide free legal advice, assistance and representation about refugee law and other immigration matters including family, refugee and humanitarian visas; temporary visas including bridging visas and visitor visas; resident return visas; and Australian citizenship. Legal Aid gives advice on detention, removal, cancellation procedures and exclusion periods.

Immigration Advice and Rights Centre (IARC)

IARC provides free immigration advice to financially disadvantaged people in New South Wales. They can give advice on a range of immigration matters including family, refugee and humanitarian visas, Australian citizenship, cancellation, detention, bridging visas and appeals to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. IARC **does not** provide advice on judicial review and economic stream migration (including employment, business and skilled visas).

Salvos Legal Humanitarian

Salvos Legal Humanitarian is a specialist law firm that provides free legal advice and assistance to financially or otherwise disadvantaged people in New South Wales and Queensland. They can help with refugee law, immigration and citizenship, criminal law, family law, housing, Centrelink and debt.

Asylum Seekers Centre (ASC)

The Asylum Seekers Centre provides accommodation and financial relief, health care, medications and counselling; hot lunches and food parcels; English classes and other educational and recreational activities for adults and children; assistance finding employment; access to computers and the internet; and legal advice, in partnership with the Refugee Advice and Casework Service (RACS)

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia

The JRS Shelter Project provides accommodation, financial assistance, legal and health referrals, English classes, and job search assistance to people with permission to work.

Phone advice: 1300 888 529
Website: www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au
323 Castlereagh Street, Haymarket
& other locations across NSW

Phone: (02) 8234 0799
Email: iarcadmin@iarc.asn.au
Website: www.iarc.asn.au
Level 5, 362 Kent Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Telephone advice: Tuesday and
Thursday, 2-4pm

Phone: (02) 8202 1500
Email: enquiries@salvoslegal.com.au
Website: www.salvoslegal.com.au
Level 2 151 Castlereagh St
Sydney NSW 2000

Phone: (02) 9078 1900
Email:
intake@asylumseekerscentre.org.au
Website:
www.asylumseekerscentre.org.au
43 Bedford Street
Newtown NSW 2042

Phone: (02) 9098 9336
Email: info@jrs.org.au
Website: www.jrs.org.au
24 Roslyn Street
Kings Cross NSW 2011

Australian Capital Territory (ACT)

Legal Aid ACT

Legal Aid ACT helps people in the ACT with their legal problems, especially people who are socially or economically disadvantaged. They can help you with legal problems about criminal matters, family breakdown, child support, mental health, domestic violence, debt, housing, social security and immigration.

Telephone advice: 1300 654 314

Phone: (02) 6243 3446
Email: Migration@legalaidact.org.au
Website: www.legalaidact.org.au
2 Allsop Street
Canberra City ACT 2601

Western Australia (WA)

Circle Green Community Legal

The Circle Green Community Legal assists people new to Australia who are disadvantaged in their access to legal services. They provide migration assistance (specifically protection visas, including TPVs and SHEVs; family reunion, including offshore humanitarian and family stream visas; and appeals to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal), complex immigration matters (including visa cancellations and refusals, citizenship and applications under family violence provisions).

Phone: (08) 6148 3636
Website: <https://circlegreen.org.au/>
Ground Floor, 445 Hay Street, Perth

Legal Aid WA

Legal Aid WA provides limited migration advice, generally only for court cases before the Federal Court or the High Court.

Phone: 1300 650 579
Website: www.legalaid.wa.gov.au
32 St Georges Terrace Perth WA 6000 &
other offices across WA

Law Access WA

Law Access WA coordinates referrals to pro bono (free or reduced cost) legal assistance by lawyers in WA. Immigration matters may be eligible for pro bono referral, subject to a financial and merits test.

Telephone: (08) 9324 8600
Email: lawaccess@lawaccess.net.au
4/160 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6000

Centrecare

Centrecare has a migration advice service and provides assistance to newly arrived migrants and refugees to settle in WA.

Phone: (08) 9451 1100
Email: enquiries@centrecare.com.au
Website: www.centrecare.com.au/services
23 Victoria Square
Perth WA 6000

Queensland (QLD)

Refugee and Immigration Legal Service (RAILS)

RAILS is an independent not-for-profit community legal centre specialising in refugee and immigration law. It provides free legal advice and assistance to disadvantaged people on Australia migration law, reviews, permanent residence, citizenship, visa cancellation, refugee status, protection visas and detention. RAILS partners with Legal Aid Qld to offer legal advice on family law and domestic violence related matters every Friday by appointment. RAILS offers monthly employment advice clinics for information including unfair dismissal, pay disputes and workplace harassment in partnership with TressCox Lawyers.

Phone: (07) 3846 9333
Email: admin@rails.org.au
Website: www.rails.org.au
Level 1, 170 Boundary Street
West End QLD 4101

Salvos Legal Humanitarian

Salvos Legal Humanitarian is a specialist law firm that provides free legal advice and assistance to financially or otherwise disadvantaged people in New South Wales and Queensland in the areas of refugee law, immigration and citizenship, criminal law, family law, housing, Centrelink and debt.

Phone: (07) 3280 8860
Email: enquiries@salvoslegal.com.au
Website: www.salvoslegal.com.au
The Sony Centre, 27 Smiths Road
GOODNA QLD 4300

Northern Territory (NT)

Legal Aid NT

Legal Aid NT provides legal assistance to people who are unable to afford the services of a private lawyer. They do not provide assistance with immigration matters but may provide referral to other legal services.

Phone: 1800 019 343 (Legal Aid Helpline)
Email: info@ntlac.nt.gov.au
Website: www.ntlac.nt.gov.au
6th Floor, 9-11 Cavenagh Street
Darwin NT 0800

Darwin Asylum Seeker Support & Advocacy Network (DASSAN)

DASSAN supports and advocates for asylum seekers in the NT. They are not a legal service but can be of general assistance, particularly in the detention space.

Email: advocacy@dassan.org
Website: www.dassan.org

South Australia (SA)

Legal Aid SA

The Legal Services Commission offers immigration and refugee legal advice through its Adelaide office. Free migration information and advice is available to anyone in South Australia. Areas covered include onshore protection visas (plane arrivals); onshore partner visas involving the family violence provisions; appeals to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal; offshore humanitarian or family stream visas; visa cancellations, or refusals, based on a failure of the character test.

Phone: 1300 366 424
Website: www.lsc.sa.gov.au
159 Gawler Place
Adelaide SA 5000

Australian Refugee Association (ARA)

ARA provides advice and assist people in applying for visa, residence and citizenship applications. ARA can assist with visitor & sponsored visitor visas, family, partner & spouse visas and refugee & asylum seeker visas.

Phone: (08) 8354 2951
Email: reception@ausref.net
Website: www.australianrefugee.org
304 Henley Beach Road
Underdale SA 5032

Tasmania (TAS)

Legal Aid Tasmania

Legal Aid Tasmania cannot assist clients with immigration legal advice. The organisation may provide information regarding other organisations that may provide immigration advice.

Phone: 1300 366 611
Website: www.legalaid.tas.gov.au
158 Liverpool Street Hobart
& other offices across TAS

Tasmanian Refugee Legal Service

The Tasmanian Refugee Legal Service (TRLS) is a not for profit refugee legal service for refugees, humanitarian entrants and asylum seekers in Tasmania. Appointments are arranged through Red Cross Tasmania and Centacare Tasmania.

Phone: (03) 6169 9473
Email: info@rlstas.com
Website: www.rlstas.com

Migration agents and lawyers who practise in immigration must be registered with the Office of Migration Agents Registration Authority to give you advice. See www.mara.gov.au

Only use a registered migration agent.