

Important Information for People transferred from Nauru and PNG and recently released from detention with a Bridging Visa

This fact sheet is for people who have recently been released from immigration detention (hotel detention or closed detention centres) with a Bridging Visa E, following their transfer from an Offshore Processing Centre in PNG or Nauru. A bridging visa is a temporary visa granted to a person so they can live lawfully in the Australian community.

Length of your bridging visa may vary

Most people released have been granted a bridging visa for six months, but bridging visas can be granted for different lengths of time. It is important to check when your bridging visa finishes.

Visa renewal is not always automatic

Although the Government calls some bridging visas 'final departure' visas, this does not mean you have to leave Australia at the end of the visa period.

However, you will need to lodge an application for another bridging visa before your current visa expires to remain lawfully in the community.

You should seek legal help to apply for another bridging visa **at least one month before your current bridging visa expires**.

Conditions on your bridging visa

Bridging visas have many conditions. You need to understand the conditions of your bridging visa and comply with them. If you are not sure about the conditions on your visa, you should get legal advice, because breaching your visa conditions, whether you mean to or not, may result in your bridging visa being cancelled and you being re-detained.

Further protecting your bridging visa

A person may face cancellation of their bridging visa if they are charged with, or convicted of any offence at all or if they breach the Code of Behaviour.

If you are contacted by the Department regarding cancellation of your visa, you must urgently seek legal advice. If your visa is actually cancelled, you will only have two working days to lodge an appeal to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Where to get free legal advice

ASRC: Please call 0478 700 605 between 10.30-12.00 Mondays and Thursdays (for people in all states, but not NSW) or for existing clients on 03 9274 9889 on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 10.30am-2pm.

Refugee Legal: Please call 03 9413 0100 between 10.00-14.00 Wednesdays and Fridays. (for people in all states, but not NSW)

RACS: Telephone advice: Monday – Friday 10am – 1pm or 2pm – 4pm on 02 8355 7227 or by emailing admin@racs.org.au with your name and phone number and we will call you back (for people in all states, but not VIC)