

FACT SHEET: GOVERNMENT POLICY ON 'FAST TRACK' DECEMBER 2022



WHAT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION?

The Labor Party went to the election promising to “abolish Temporary Protection Visas and Safe Haven Enterprise Visas and transition eligible refugees onto permanent visa arrangements.”

As at December 2022, the government has not announced a policy on **how** or **when** it will give effect to its promise. We expect an announcement in January, but this has not been confirmed.

Experts have called for a fast, simple solution that minimises delay and harm to affected people, and have proposed clear mechanisms to government.

WHO DOES THIS AFFECT?

If you hold a TPV or SHEV or have ever applied for a TPV or SHEV, you may be affected.

There are roughly 19,000 people in Australia who hold or have held TPVs or SHEVs, and a further 12,000 who are either waiting for a decision or who have received a negative decision.

These 31,000 people have had their claims for protection assessed under the so-called 'fast track' system, and have been waiting for resolution for close to a decade.

Experts have called for a solution for all 31,000 people affected by this defective and cruel regime.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

- If your TPV or SHEV is due to expire, you **must** apply for renewal before expiry. The law has not yet changed. If your visa expires, you will become unlawful and at risk of detention, and there will likely be barriers and delays with any future applications.
- If you receive a negative decision on your visa application, you should still engage with review by the Immigration Assessment Authority.
- If you are waiting for review of a negative decision by the IAA or by the court, you should continue to engage with that process.
- You **must** abide by the conditions of your existing visa, including with respect to travel.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

As soon as there is an announcement, ASRC will share clear information on social media, including about next steps for affected people, and including if the announcement is made during our closure period for the year.

A lot of inaccurate information is being shared about this policy. Ensure you are getting your information from a reliable source, like the ASRC or community legal centres in your state or territory.

ASRC will be closed from 5pm, Thursday 22 December 2022 until at 10am, Monday 9 January 2023, with the exception of 10am-1pm on 29 December 2022 and 5 January 2023 for urgent matters only.

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