

Information regarding visa options for Palestinians

The Australian Department of Home Affairs is <u>progressing tourist visa applications</u> for Palestinian nationals, particularly for those with a connection to Australia, in light of the current crisis in Palestinian Territories.

The Australian Government has yet to announce whether it will make special provisions to support Palestinian nationals fleeing conflict and their families, including fast-tracking applications by Palestinian nationals onshore to allow for family reunion, allowing access to particular visas, or increasing the humanitarian intake.

APPLYING FOR A VISA TO TRAVEL TO AUSTRALIA

If you are a Palestinian national you can apply for a Subclass 600 Visitor Visa under the Tourist stream to come to Australia. Even if you have family in Australia, you do not need to make an application under the Sponsored Family Visitor stream: those applications may <u>take longer</u> to process and may limit onshore visa options if granted.

Getting help with your visa application

You can make an application using the Department's online system via ImmiAccount. There are application fees for each individual intending to travel (currently \$190.00 plus credit card charges). The Refugee Advice & Casework Service in NSW has published a brief guide on how to follow the online application.

It is important that you provide accurate information and any relevant evidence to support your application. If available, include a signed letter from any Australian contact which details the support they can provide while you are in Australia (e.g. housing and/or financial).

If you have any difficulties or questions about the application process we recommend obtaining migration advice from a reputable Registered Migration Agent or Australian Legal Practitioner. Please see organisations listed below who may be able to provide free legal help.

If you do not have a travel document

Palestinian nationals who wish to make a visa application must hold a valid travel document. If you are able to, you can apply directly to the Palestinian Authority for a travel document or contact the Palestinian Embassy where you are located.

If you have a valid visa but cannot depart the Palestinian Territories

If you already hold a valid visa and you are unable to depart or have your travel document extended, contact an Australian consular office or seek migration advice or a reputable Registered Migration Agent or Australian Legal Practitioner. Please see organisations listed below who may be able to provide free legal help.

VISA OPTIONS FOR PALESTINIAN NATIONALS IN AUSTRALIA

If you would like to extend your stay in Australia, it is important that you access reputable, ethical legal advice about your options.

It is important to lodge the most appropriate visa application for your circumstances, before your temporary visa expires. You may be eligible to access standard visa pathways, including the skilled, family, student and visitor visa programs.

If a 'no further stay' condition (8503, 8534, 8535 or 8540) applies to a current visa, you can apply to have that condition waived by completing a No Further Stay waiver request at least 2-3 weeks before your visa expires – simply submitting this waiver request will not extend your visa until they make a decision.

Palestinian nationals who have arrived on a temporary visa and are unable to access standard visa pathways or cannot return to Palestine may be eliqible to apply for a Protection (Subclass 866) Visa. Please see organisations listed below who may be able to provide free legal help.

WHERE CAN I GET FREE LEGAL HELP?

Organisation	Who can they assist?	Contact details
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre	If you live in the community in Victoria (note we only have capacity to assist Palestinian nationals who have already arrived in Australia)	 Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10am - 12.30pm (closed on Wednesdays) Phone: (03) 9274 9889 Address: 214-218 Nicholson Street, Footscray VIC 3011
Refugee Advice Casework Service (RACS)	If you live in the community in New South Wales or the Northern Territory	Phone advice • Hours: Mon-Fri 11am-1pm and 2pm-4pm • Phone: (02) 8355 7227 • Email: admin@racs.org.au
Refugee Legal	If you live in the community in Victoria, South Australia and the Northern Territory	Email: admin@refugeelegal.org.au

You can also access private (fee-receiving) legal advice, including from the services listed here.

Please note: This factsheet contains general information only. It does not constitute legal or migration advice.

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