

## **Information for those trying to leave Iran**

This factsheet provides RACS' understanding of responses to some Frequently Asked Questions we are currently receiving from people in Australia wishing to assist relatives and friends in Iran wanting help to come to Australia. Please note that all the information in this factsheet we believe to be correct as at June 2025, but the situation is changing rapidly.

### **I have friends or relatives in Iran and I want to help them to come to Australia**

Currently the quickest way for people who are not Australian citizens or permanent residents to leave and to come to Australia is to apply for a 600 visitor visa in the tourist stream. To do this, you will generally need a passport. At this stage, to be eligible for an initial Tourist Visa, you will need to satisfy the Department of your intention to be a genuine temporary entrant.

The process to apply for a visitor visa is to create an ImmiAccount and lodge the application through there. A step by step guide to this process is on our "[How to apply for a visitor visa](#)" factsheet.

For further information, and to ensure that you have the most up to date information, we suggest that you check the Department of Home Affairs website: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-and-support/iran-visa-support>

Please see [RACS Website for Fact Sheets](#) on other visa pathways to Australia for your [family members](#). Please note however, there is no current pathway to expedite these applications due to the escalating situation in Iran.

### **Once someone arrives with a visitor visa to Australia, how long can they stay? Are there more permanent options to stay?**

A 600 visitor visa in the tourist stream can be granted for different periods, with different "stay" periods of 3, 6 or 12 months. Once onshore, a person should then get advice from RACS about the prospects of success of a protection visa or other visa pathways as appropriate, taking into account their individual circumstances.

However, once here in Australia, a person may also be eligible to apply for other kinds of visas in Australia such as a further visitor visa, a student visa, a temporary skills shortage visa, or a partner if they have an Australian partner. RACS can provide a list of commercial lawyers who can provide advice on all the kinds of visas a person may be eligible for, not just a protection visa.

### **I want to check on a visa application that has already been lodged – what can I do?**

If you or your family member has already applied for a visa, such as an offshore humanitarian visa or a partner visa, it is unlikely that the Department of Home Affairs will be able to prioritise or expedite your application unless your application is near finalisation. This would mean you have provided all required documents, completed an interview, biometrics, health and character checks and responded to any other requests for more information. If your application is still in process, you may wish to consider applying for a visitor visa.

## **I want to check on my family – what can I do?**

For family members who have lost contact with relatives due to the current situation, the Restoring Family Links team at Australian Red Cross can assess your case and work through their Family Links Network:

The RFL Hotline is available Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm (AEST) on 1800 875 199 or via [tracing@redcross.org.au](mailto:tracing@redcross.org.au)

Refugees United is a non-profit helping refugee families that have lost contact with each other connect. They can be reached through their web portal at:

<https://refunite.org/>

## **I am an Australian Citizen or Visa holder in Iran – how can I get help?**

For further information, and to ensure that you have the most up to date information, we suggest that you check the DFAT website: <https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/destinations/middle-east/iran>

Smart Traveller currently advises:

- *If you're an Australian citizen or permanent resident in Iran, you can now register on DFAT's crisis registration portal. Keep your registration details up to date so the Australian Government can contact you.*
- *If you need emergency consular assistance, contact the Australian Government's Consular Emergency Centre on +61 2 6261 3305 (if you're overseas) and 1300 555 135 (in Australia).*

The crisis portal can be accessed here: <https://crisis.dfat.gov.au/crisisportal/s/>

According to DFAT, registration is for:

- *Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate family members in Iran (or Israel or Occupied Palestinian Territories) who **have right of entry** into Australia.*

*Immediate family members include:*

- *partner of an Australian citizen or permanent resident*
- *minor children (under 18 years old) of an Australian citizen or permanent resident*
- *dependants (up to 23 years old) of an Australian citizen or permanent resident*
- *parents of an Australian citizen or permanent resident*

You can also [subscribe](#) to the DFAT Smarttraveller travel advice to receive the latest updates.

If you need to contact DFAT, further contact information on how to contact DFAT can be found at: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/contact-us>

We recommend you make contact with the Australian embassy and Consular Emergency Centre:

Australian Embassy in Tehran

Phone: [+98 21 7206 8666](tel:+982172068666)

24-hour Consular Emergency Centre

From overseas: +61 2 6261 3305

In Australia: 1300 555 135

## Getting Help from RACS

RACS is entirely independent of the Department of Home Affairs. All assistance is free. If you would like advice or assistance, RACS offers the following service options:

Service	Day	Time	Address/Number
Telephone Advice	Monday to Friday	11AM to 1PM and 2PM to 4PM	(02) 8355 7227 or <a href="mailto:admin@racs.org.au">admin@racs.org.au</a>

**Please note:** This factsheet contains general information only. It does not constitute legal or migration advice. RACS is independent of the Department of Home Affairs. All assistance is free. This factsheet was prepared on 18 June 2025.