



Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre
for International Refugee Law

Factsheet

BRIDGING VISAS

Last updated: November 2020

Eligible asylum seekers reside in the Australian community on bridging visas while awaiting the outcome of a protection visa application. Australia's bridging visa regime discriminates between asylum seekers based on how they arrive in Australia, and can operate to deny asylum seekers access to work rights and basic healthcare.

Bridging visas and eligibility

A bridging visa is a temporary visa that allows a person to remain in Australia for a specified period while his or her substantive protection visa application is processed and finally determined. Bridging visas are temporary visas for all substantive visa applicants, not only for asylum seekers.

The two main types of bridging visas which asylum seekers are generally granted (where they meet the eligibility criteria) are:

- ◁ [Bridging Visa A \(BVA\)](#); and
- ◁ [Bridging Visa E \(BVE\)](#).

Bridging Visa A (BVA)

Generally, an asylum seeker will be eligible for a BVA where he or she has:

- ◁ arrived in Australia by plane on a valid visa (such as a student visa, a tourist visa or a business visa);
- ◁ applied for a protection visa while their initial visa was still valid (or applied for review of a decision, including judicial review, in the prescribed time frame); and
- ◁ meets character requirements.

care system).

Bridging Visa E (BVE)

Generally, asylum seekers who arrive by plane or boat without a valid visa or have previously been in immigration detention in Australia will be granted a BVE, if they are deemed eligible by the Department of Home Affairs to reside in the community. This

includes asylum seekers in the Legacy Caseload (see the [Legacy Caseload factsheet](#) for more information).

Between November 2011 and 30 June 2020, a total of 37,026 [bridging visas were granted](#) to asylum seekers who arrived by boat. As at 30 June 2020, 12,450 asylum seekers who arrived by boat remained in the coem 34 0 595.

- < a merits review tribunal notifies the asylum seeker that it has upheld the
- < a merit review tribunal notifies the asylum seeker that it has no jurisdiction to consider your application for review;
- < the asylum seeker withdraws his or her application for merits or judicial review from a merits review tribunal or a judicial review body; or
- < visa application.

