

Bridging visas and Work rights for people who arrived by boat

I don't have a Bridging Visa / my Bridging Visa has expired

- Generally if you came by boat you need the permission of the Minister to get a new Bridging Visa E. This normally involves going into the Department of Immigration's office.

How to get a new Bridging Visa

- You can contact the Department to ask about how and when you can get a new Bridging Visa by going in person to an office, by calling them on 1300 728 662 between 9am and 4pm, Monday to Friday.
- You could also try emailing bvreporting@border.gov.au with your Name, Boat ID, and your current address and phone number and a request to be contacted about a new Bridging Visa.

Have you signed the Code of Behaviour?

- You must sign the Code of Behaviour before you can be granted a new Bridging visa without any work restriction. If you haven't signed the Code of Behaviour yet, you should do so as soon as possible by going to an office of the Department of Immigration. For more information about the Code of Behaviour, please see the RACS factsheet: [The Code of Behaviour and Bridging Visa conditions for people who came by boat: Bridging Visa E.](#)

Have you told the Department of Immigration your current address?

- It is essential that you notify the Department of Immigration of any change of address at least 2 working days beforehand. You must also report to the Department of Immigration every 3 months or when you are told to. You can report to the Department of Immigration by calling 1300 728 662 or emailing bvreporting@immi.gov.au.

Conditions of a Bridging Visa to be aware of

- Once your Bridging Visa is granted, it is important to comply with the reporting requirements which are a condition of your visa.
- Another condition is that you fill out a form to tell the Department two working days before you move to a different address. You must also not engage in any criminal conduct, and sign and abide by a Code of Behaviour.

Time limitation issues

- If you don't have a current Bridging Visa, you could be detained. We recommend you continue to contact the Department until they can tell you the appointment date for your new Bridging Visa to be issued.

I need Medicare

- Generally if you came by boat you will hold a Bridging Visa E while you're waiting.
- On your BVE you should be eligible to apply for and hold a Medicare card.

- To apply for a Medicare card you will need to visit a Medicare Service Centre.
- When you go, you need to bring with you the letter from Immigration granting your Bridging Visa and your ImmiCard.
- For more information you could contact the Medicare general enquiry line on 132 001 or talk to your caseworker (for example if you have a caseworker with Settlement Services, Marist Youth Care, Red Cross or Life Without Barriers).

I don't have an ImmiCard

- Normally it's sent to your home address when your Bridging Visa is granted. If you don't have one, this might be because your address isn't recorded properly. We recommend you check your current address with the Department, and fill out a form to update them if it's not currently correct.
- To issue a new one, you need to [order a replacement online](#) and this will then be sent to your residential address.

How do I know if I have work rights?

Check VEVO

- You can check whether you have work rights by checking the Department of Immigration's Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO) system. You must enter your ImmiCard details and the visa grant number or visa evidence number:
<http://www.immi.gov.au/Services/Pages/vevo/vevo-overview.aspx>.

Look at your last Bridging visa letter

- Alternatively, you can look at the most recent Bridging visa grant letter from the Department of Immigration to see whether there is a condition called '8101 No work'. Under the section of the letter called 'Conditions', if there is an 8101 condition, then you do not have the right to work. If there is not an 8101 condition, then you have the right to work.
- If you do not know how to do this, you can go to the Department of Immigration and ask them (the Compliance section on Level 4 of 26 Lee Street Sydney).

Most people who are applying for protection visas and who arrived by boat should have work rights while they are waiting for that application to be considered. If you don't, contact the Department to ask why, then seek legal advice.

I've been granted a Bridging Visa E – do I need to do anything while I hold this visa?

- A Bridging Visa E is a visa which allows you to stay in the community while you're waiting for your protection visa application to be considered, or permission to apply.
- If you have lodged a protection visa application, your bridging visa won't expire until a decision has been made on your case.
- One of the conditions of that Bridging Visa is that you must report to Immigration.

When to report

- They usually give you a date on which you must report on in the letter granting your Bridging Visa.
- If you're not sure of this date – you can call or email the Department and ask.

How to report

- You can report to the Department by calling them on 1300 728 662 between 9am and 4pm, Monday to Friday.
- You could also report by emailing bvreporting@border.gov.au with your Name, Boat ID, and your current address and phone number.
- It's up to you if you report by phone or by email, but you must report in order to comply with the conditions of your Bridging Visa.

Other conditions to bear in mind on your Bridging Visa

- Another condition is that you fill out a form to tell the Department two working days before you move to a different address.
- You must also not engage in any criminal conduct, and sign and abide by a Code of Behaviour. For more information about the Code of Behaviour, please see the RACS factsheet: [The Code of Behaviour and Bridging Visa conditions for people who came by boat: Bridging Visa E](#)
- If you don't already have one, an ImmiCard should be sent to your home address soon after your grant letter.
- You can't leave Australia and re-enter Australia on your Bridging Visa.
- You can apply for Medicare on your Bridging Visa and you have permission to work on your Bridging Visa.

Expiry of your Bridging Visa after a decision by the Immigration Assessment Authority.

If you have been granted a Bridging Visa in connection with an application for a Protection Visa, it will expire 28 days after you are notified by a decision of the Immigration Assessment Authority.

If you are appealing a negative decision by the Immigration Assessment Authority to court, you are able to make an application for a Bridging Visa. You can do this by:

- Physically going to the Department after you file with the Federal Circuit Court and apply for a new BVE. You will not be able to apply by calling the Department by phone.
- Take a copy of your FCC court documents with you, and be ready to complete the Department's form (Form 1008) to apply for a new BVE.

You must do this before your current Bridging Visa expires or you could be detained. If you have been refused by the IAA, this will be 28 days after you were notified of the decision.

Work rights after a decision by the Immigration Assessment Authority?

The Department has informed RACS as a general rule, if work rights were granted previously, work rights ought to be granted on BVEs while waiting for the outcome of an appeal to the Federal Circuit Court.

Please note: This factsheet contains general information only. It does not constitute legal or migration advice. If you would like more detailed information on any aspect, please refer to RACS fact sheets available at www.racs.org.au. RACS is independent of the Department of Immigration. All assistance is free. This factsheet was prepared in June 2016.