How to write a statement for a Protection visa application
In order to make an application for a Protection visa, you need to write down the reasons why you believe you should be given protection by Australia.

You can write these reasons at questions 42-48 of Part C of Form 866 (the Protection Visa application form).

Or, if you have a lot of information, you can write the reasons in a separate statement and attach the statement to your application form.

**What should you write in the statement?**

- Start the statement by describing your personal details, including:
  - Name
  - Date of birth
  - Nationality and/or the country where you lived
  - Religion and ethnicity (if they are relevant to your claims)
  - Your family background and occupation
  - Any other personal details that are important for your claims.

Write down what happened to you and your family members included in your application. The statement is your opportunity to tell YOUR story.
What should you write in the statement? (cont.)

- **Family background:** If your parents or other family members have had previous problems that are relevant to your own problems, describe those problems.

- **Problems you had in your country:** Describe the first time you encountered problems or suffered harm.
  - What happened to you that made you leave your country?
  - How were you harmed?
  - Give detailed descriptions including names, places & times.
  - Did you ask for help from the authorities or police in your country? If not why not?

- **When and why you left your country:** Why did you decide to leave your home country when you did? How did you leave your country? For example:
  - Did you use a passport?
  - Did you pay a bribe?
  - How did you get a visa to come to Australia?
  - Did you have difficulty leaving your country at border control?

- **Why you came to Australia:**
  - Why did you choose to come to Australia and not another country?
  - Why did you decide to leave?

**IMPORTANT TIPS:**

- **Chronological order:** Write your statement in the order that things happened, from the beginning to the end. This will make it easier for people to understand your story and for you to remember what you have written.

- **Focus on your personal situation:** It is OK to describe the general problems in your country. However, your statement should not be used to provide detailed information about your country.
What should you write in the statement? (cont.)

- **Why do you fear returning to your country?** Describe your fears.
  - will you be harmed?
  - who will harm you?
  - why will they harm you?
  - what will they do to you?

- **State protection:** Will the authorities or police protect you against the harm that you fear? If not, why not?

- **Relocation:** Can you move to another part of your country and live there without the problems you had before?
  - NO? Explain why you would continue to experience problems if you moved to another part of the country.
  - YES? If you could relocate to another part of your country, but it would be difficult, explain why it would not be reasonable for you to move. For example:
    - Do you have any relatives or connections elsewhere?
    - Is it difficult or dangerous to travel to other areas?
    - Are there general dangers in other areas?

Are there any other personal circumstances that would make moving unreasonable? For example, your age, gender, disability, language barriers, ethnicity, religion, ability to find work.
Things to Remember

- **Tell the Truth**
  Do not exaggerate or make up events. This is a criminal offence. The Department of Immigration will check your claims against other information about your country. If you are found to have been dishonest about some parts of your story, the decision maker might not believe any part of your story and this may mean that you will not be granted a Protection visa.

- **Dates**
  Do not make them up because you are likely to forget. Consistency is IMPORTANT. Make sure the details about dates and events are the same throughout the statement.

- **Know your statement well**
  At the interview you will be asked questions based on the information you provided in your application and statement.

- **Supporting Documents**
  Provide a certified copy* of documents that support your claims. Do not send the originals. Take the originals to your interview.

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Further information

For further information, you can contact the RACS Telephone Advice service on 9114 1600 between 10:00 and 12:00 on Tuesday and Thursday for free telephone advice, to see if you need an appointment or for a referral to another service.

This brochure is available in: Arabic, Chinese (simplified), Dari/Farsi, Tamil Turkish, Urdu

For more information, visit www.racs.org.au, call RACS on (02) 9114-1600 or email admin@racs.org.au.

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