



Subclass (051)

Bridging visa E (BVE)

This visa lets you stay in Australia while your Protection visa application is being processed.

Overview

Stay

Temporarily

Cost

There is no fee for a BVE application.

Processing times

For an indication of processing times for this visa, use the [visa processing time guide tool \(/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/global-visa-processing-times\)](#). This will show the processing times for recently decided applications. It is a guide only and not specific to your application.

With this visa, you can

- stay in Australia lawfully while your Protection visa application is being processed.

[See all conditions \(/visas/already-have-a-visa/check-visa-details-and-conditions/see-your-visa-conditions?product=051\)](#)

[Check your eligibility \(#Eligibility\)](#)

You must

- comply with all Australian laws

Help with your visa

If you are getting help with your visa, before you pay someone, read information on [Who can help with your visa application \(/help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/overview\)](#).

About this visa

[Ask a question](#)

- [Types of bridging visas \(#aboutVisa-index-0\)](#)
 - [With this visa you can \(#aboutVisa-index-1\)](#)
 - [How long you can stay \(#aboutVisa-index-2\)](#)
 - [Stay longer \(#aboutVisa-index-3\)](#)
 - [Include family \(#aboutVisa-index-4\)](#)
 - [Cost \(#aboutVisa-index-5\)](#)
 - [Processing times \(#aboutVisa-index-6\)](#)
 - [Your obligations \(#aboutVisa-index-7\)](#)
 - [Travel \(#aboutVisa-index-8\)](#)
 - [Visa label \(#aboutVisa-index-9\)](#)
-

Types of bridging visas

You can stay in Australia lawfully while your Protection visa application is being processed.

There are two types of BVEs:

- Bridging (General) visa (subclass 050) - generally if you are currently unlawful, the holder of a BVE 050 or the holder of a BVD 041
- Bridging (Protection Visa Applicant) visa (subclass 051) - used in limited situations to allow certain eligible non-citizens (as specified by the Regulations) to remain lawfully in Australia while their Protection visa application is being finalised.

With this visa you can

You may be eligible to apply for this visa if you were refused immigration clearance or bypassed immigration clearance and came to our notice as an unlawful non-citizen within 45 days of entering Australia, and all of the following apply to you

- you are in immigration detention
- you have applied for a protection visa and this has not been finally determined; or you have applied for judicial review of a protection visa refusal decision
- you meet other specific requirements relating to age, health or nomination, or you meet the requirements for a further BVE (subclass 051)

How long you can stay

This visa is valid until a specified date, or for a particular time period, or until a specified event happens.

Your BVE will also end if:

- you leave Australia
- we grant you a substantive visa
- your BVE is cancelled

Stay longer

You cannot stay in Australia longer by extending this visa.

Explore your visa options (</visas/visa-about-to-expire/stay-longer>).

Include family

You can include members of the family unit in your application when you apply.

Cost

There is no fee for a BVE application.

Processing times

For an indication of processing times for this visa, use the [visa processing time guide tool](/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/global-visa-processing-times) (</visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/global-visa-processing-times>). This will show the processing times for recently decided applications. It is a guide only and not specific to your application.

Your application can take longer to process if:

- you do not fill it in correctly
- you do not include all the documents we need or we need more information from you
- it takes us time to verify your information

Your obligations

You and anyone included in your application must comply with all Australian laws.

Travel

A BVE allows you to stay in Australia lawfully for a short time. It will end immediately if you leave Australia. You will not be able to return unless you have another substantive visa.

A substantive visa is any visa that is not a bridging visa or a criminal justice visa or an enforcement visa.

Visa label

We will digitally link your visa to your passport. You will not get a label in your passport.

Eligibility

Have been refused or bypassed immigration clearance

You must have been refused immigration clearance or bypassed immigration clearance and come to our notice within 45 days, and all of the following apply to you:

Have applied for a protection visa

You must have applied for a protection visa.

Be in immigration detention

You must be in immigration detention.

Meet other specific requirements

You must meet other specific requirements relating to age, health or nomination, or you meet the requirements for a further BVE (subclass 051).

Age

You can be any age to apply for this visa.

Meet health requirement

You and any family members who apply for the visa with you may need to meet our [health requirement \(/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/health\)](/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/health)

Meet character requirement

You must meet our [character requirement \(/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/character\)](/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/character). We might also ask that other family members meet the requirement.

Meet all these criteria? Check how to apply in our [step by step \(#HowTo\)](#) guide.

Step by step

Step 1

Before you apply

Check if you already hold a BVE before you apply for this visa in [VEVO \(/help-support/tools/vevo\)](#).

In some cases, when you make a valid application for a substantive visa in Australia, you will also have applied for a BVE. We will tell you if this happens. In this case, you do not need to lodge a separate application.

Organise health exams before you apply

You might need to have health examinations. You can complete them before you apply or you can wait until after you apply.

Get help with your application

Only some people can help you with your application. If you appoint someone to give you immigration assistance they must be:

- a [registered migration agent \(/help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/using-a-migration-agent\)](#)
- a [legal practitioner \(/help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/using-a-legal-practitioner\)](#), Or
- an [exempt person \(/help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/exempt-person\)](#).

You can appoint anyone to [receive documents \(/help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/authorised-recipients\)](#) on your behalf relating to your visa matter.

Step 2

Gather your documents

Gather the documents you need for your application.

Provide accurate information

Provide accurate information. See what happens if you cannot prove your identity or do not provide true information (</help-support/meeting-our-requirements/providing-accurate-information>).

Identity documents

Provide the pages of your current passport showing your photo, personal details, and passport issue and expiry dates.

Also provide:

- a national identity card, if you have one
- proof of change of name

Documents that prove a change of name include:

- a marriage or divorce certificate
- change of name documents from an Australian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, or the relevant overseas authority
- documents that show other names you have been known by

Health documents

You do not need to provide health documents. The doctor will send them to us.

Character documents

We will tell you if and when you need to get a [police certificate \(/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/character\)](/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/character).

Tell us you are getting help

To nominate someone to:

- receive your correspondence, use [Form 956A Appointment or withdrawal of an authorised recipient \(/form-listing/forms/956a.pdf\)](/form-listing/forms/956a.pdf)
- provide immigration assistance, use [Form 956 Appointment of a registered migration agent, legal practitioner or exempt person \(/form-listing/forms/956.pdf\)](/form-listing/forms/956.pdf).

Send written notification or your forms with your paper application.

Step 3

Apply for the visa

You must apply on paper. You and anyone included in your application must be in Australia when you lodge the BVE application.

Provide accurate information

Provide accurate information. See what happens if you cannot prove your identity or do not provide true information (</help-support/meeting-our-requirements/providing-accurate-information>).

Apply on paper

Complete [Form 1005 Application for Bridging visa \(/form-listing/forms/1005.pdf\)](/form-listing/forms/1005.pdf).

Send your paper application by post to the Australian [Visa and Citizenship Office \(/help-support/contact-us/offices-and-locations\)](/help-support/contact-us/offices-and-locations) closest to you, as you might need to attend an interview as part of the application process.

Step 4

After you apply

See what you can and must do after you apply.

What will happen after you apply

We will let you know when we have received your application and documents.

Status updates

We cannot give updates on applications within the standard processing time.

Wait for us to contact you.

Travel

A BVE lets you temporarily stay in Australia. It will end when you leave Australia. If you travel outside Australia after you apply, you need a visa to return.

Learn about [visa expiry \(/visas/visa-about-to-expire\)](/visas/visa-about-to-expire).

Health exams

We will let you know if you need [health examinations \(/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/health\)](/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/health).

Biometrics

We might ask for [biometrics \(/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/identity/biometric\)](/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/identity/biometric) (fingerprints and photo). We will let you know if you need to provide them.

Send more information

Send the documents to the office where you lodged the application.

We might also ask you to provide more information.

Mistakes on your application

Let us know as soon as you can if you made a mistake on your application.

Complete [Form 1023 Notification of incorrect answers \(/form-listing/forms/1023.pdf\)](/form-listing/forms/1023.pdf).

Help with your application

Let us know if you no longer want someone to:

- receive your correspondence - complete [Form 956A Appointment or withdrawal of an authorised recipient \(/form-listing/forms/956a.pdf\)](/form-listing/forms/956a.pdf)
- provide immigration advice - complete [Form 956 Appointment of a registered migration agent, legal practitioner or exempt person \(/form-listing/forms/956.pdf\)](/form-listing/forms/956.pdf).

Send written notification or your forms to the office your submitted your application.

For more information see [Who can help you with your application \(/help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/overview\)](/help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/overview).

Tell us if things change

Things you need to let us know about after you have applied include:

- changes to your phone number, email, address or passport
- the birth of a child
- you want to withdraw your application

See how to [tell us if your situation changes \(/change-in-situation\)](/change-in-situation).

Step 5

Visa outcome

We will tell you when we make a decision about your visa application.

We will let you know in writing our decision about your visa application. The letter or email will tell you:

- your visa grant number
- the date your visa starts
- your visa conditions

Keep a copy of the letter with you when in Australia.

If we refuse your visa we will let you know in writing. We will tell you:

- why it was refused
- whether you have a right to a review of the decision

Question block with [hyperlink \(#HowTo\)](#)

When you have this visa

- [In Australia \(#haveThisVisa-index-0\)](#)
- [Leaving Australia \(#haveThisVisa-index-1\)](#)

In Australia

What you can do when you have this visa

- stay lawfully in Australia until a decision is made on your substantive visa application

To see your specific conditions use [VEVO \(/help-support/applying-online-or-on-paper/online\)](#).

What you must do on this visa (your obligations)

- comply with all Australian laws

Tell us if things change

Things you need to let us know about include:

- changes to your phone number, email, address or passport
- you want to withdraw your application

See how to let us know if there is a [change in your situation \(/change-in-situation\)](#).

Leaving Australia

Before you leave

Check your travel documents

You must have a valid passport or other travel document to leave Australia.

At the Border

Leaving the airport faster

We have an automated process that uses facial recognition technology and your ePassport. You might be able to leave the airport faster if you use [SmartGate \(https://www.abf.gov.au/smartgates\)](https://www.abf.gov.au/smartgates).

After you leave

International Movement Record

To prove you have been to Australia, request your international movement records by completing [Form 1359 Request for international movement records. \(/form-listing/forms/1359.pdf\)](#)

Last updated:
23 September 2024

