



## Overview

CRSA is unable to provide specific legal or migration advice on visa options for refugees seeking family reunification. We are however able to share with you a variety of readily available resources and tools to assist in navigating this complex system. CRSA strongly encourages groups and refugee participants to seek professional legal advice before embarking on a visa application for family reunion. Many of the services listed below are free to access, but please note that wait times for free support can be long – these services are supporting many people in the community. If your situation is urgent, you may wish to consider engaging a migration agent on a fee-for-service basis.

## Humanitarian Visa Pathways

Please refer to the Department of Home Affairs website for specific information on each of the below Humanitarian Visa options.

- [Special Humanitarian Program](#) (SHP)
- [Community Support Program](#) (CSP)
- [Skilled Refugee Labour Mobility Pilot](#) (TBB)
- [Family Reunification](#) – there are a variety of visa options available in this category, costs and wait times are usually significant. Depending on circumstances there may be a more appropriate visa in one of the above programs.

Other visa pathways outside of the Humanitarian Migration Program may also be an option including partner visas, skilled visas etc. Please refer to the Department of Home Affairs website or seek advice from a qualified migration agent for further information on these.

## Free legal services and migration agents

The following is a non-exhaustive list of free legal services that may be able to provide advice.

If your situation is urgent, you may wish to consider engaging a private migration agent on a fee-for-service basis. You can check details of all registered migration agents using the link below.

- [Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority \(mara.gov.au\)](https://www.mara.gov.au)

**Refugee Council of Australia** has material on its website that can assist in navigating visa options and where to find appropriate support:

- [Legal or migration advice - Refugee Council of Australia](#)
- [Information for people wanting to reunite with family \(refugeecouncil.org.au\)](https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au)

## Victoria – Free legal services

### Refugee Legal:

- <https://refugeelegal.org.au/about-us-2/what-we-do/>

### Victoria Legal Aid:

- <https://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/other-support-immigration-and-migration>  
- <https://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/ways-migrating-australia>



**Asylum Seeker Resource Center:**

- <https://asrc.org.au/get-help/legal-help/>

## New South Wales - Free legal services

**Refugee Advice and Casework Service (RACS):**

- <https://www.racs.org.au/clinic-program>
- [Family Reunion Visa Overview](#)
- [Sponsoring your partner to live with you in Australia](#)
- [Sponsoring your child to live with you in Australia](#)
  - [Family reunion fact sheets](#)

**Legal Aid NSW:**

- <https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/what-we-do/civil-law/refugee-service>
- Can assist with separation and arrangements for children, as well as family issues and immigration

**Immigration Advice and Rights Center:**

- <https://iarc.org.au/resources/partner-visas-applying-outside-australia/>
- [Partner Visa Application Outside of Australia \(Factsheet\)](#)
- [Breakdown of Relationship - Partner Visa \(Factsheet\)](#)
- [Offshore Refugee and Humanitarian Visas \(Factsheet\)](#)

## Queensland - Free legal services

**RAILS:**

- <https://www.rails.org.au/about-us/who-we-are-and-what-we-do>
- Family Reunion: [RAILS Legal Services/Family Reunion](#)

## Northern Territory - Free legal services

**Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission:**

- <https://www.legalaid.nt.gov.au/need-help/>

## South Australia - Free legal services

**Australian Refugee Association:**

- [www.australianrefugee.org](http://www.australianrefugee.org)

**JusticeNet:**

- <https://www.justicenet.org.au/what-we-do/rasp>

## Tasmania - Free legal services

**Migrant Resource Center:**



- <https://mrctas.org.au/migration-support/>

## ACT - Free legal services

### Legal Aid ACT:

- <https://www.legalaidact.org.au/what-we-do-2>

## Western Australia - free legal services

### Circle Green Community Legal:

- <https://circlegreen.org.au/humanitarian/>

## Information for refugee participants wanting to travel outside Australia

Information on travel documentation and foreign visas required for travel overseas is available through the relevant embassy or consulate for that country. Extreme caution should be exercised, and specific advice sought, before contacting any embassy, consulate or government authority linked to the refugee's country of origin given the risks they may face if they return, even for a short visit.

We encourage refugee participants to [review details on Australian government requirements](#) for travel associated with their current visa. They should also contact [Department of Home Affairs](#) to confirm if any exit documentation, visa changes or other processes are required for international travel.

Migration agents will also be able to provide advice and guidance on any implications international travel may have for an individual wishing to do so.