



## Changes to processing location for refugee and humanitarian applications from Pakistan and Afghanistan

### Location of processing

From 27 October 2008 all Refugee and Humanitarian (Class XB) applications, accompanied by *Form 681 – Refugee and Humanitarian Proposal*, from clients who live in Afghanistan or Pakistan must be lodged at the Offshore Humanitarian Processing Centre (OHPC) in Melbourne, Victoria.

This includes applicants with a proposer in Australia who want to be considered for grant of a visa under the Special Humanitarian Program (SHP) (subclass 202) or under the immediate or 'split' family provisions of any of the subclasses in the Refugee and Humanitarian class.

These applications will be initially assessed in the OHPC in Melbourne. Applications that require further processing will be referred by the OHPC to the Australian Consulate-General in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, for decision.

All other refugee and humanitarian applications from clients in Afghanistan and Pakistan will also be processed in Dubai. This includes clients without a proposer in Australia. Clients have the option of lodging their application directly with Dubai or at their nearest immigration office.

### The benefits

This move will help the Afghan community in Australia by providing a single lodgement point in Australia for the majority of Afghan SHP and split family applicants. The department's office in Dubai will provide an efficient processing environment for all refugee and humanitarian applications from clients in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

### Where to lodge your application

*Applications accompanied by Form 681*

All applications accompanied by *Form 681 – Refugee and Humanitarian Proposal*, lodged on or after 27 October 2008 from clients in Afghanistan and Pakistan must be sent directly to the OHPC in Melbourne.

Please direct applications by post to:

Offshore Humanitarian Processing Centre  
GPO Box 241  
Melbourne VIC 3001  
AUSTRALIA

Applications by courier should be directed to:

Offshore Humanitarian Processing Centre  
Level 23, 2 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000  
AUSTRALIA

#### *All other refugee and humanitarian cases*

All other refugee and humanitarian applications from clients in Afghanistan and Pakistan can either be lodged directly with the Dubai post or at the client's nearest immigration office.

For more information about lodging an application, visit the department's website at <http://www.immi.gov.au/refugee/migrating/index.htm> or, alternatively, visit your nearest immigration office.

### **Applications lodged before 27 October 2008**

#### *Applications accompanied by Form 681*

If you lodged your application before 27 October 2008 but it has not yet been assessed, it will be transferred to the OHPC in Melbourne for processing. If your application has been assessed in Islamabad it will be transferred to Dubai for finalisation. When your application is transferred, you will be contacted by the department and informed where your application will be processed. You will be notified once this occurs.

#### *Other refugee and humanitarian cases*

All other refugee and humanitarian applications lodged in Islamabad will be transferred to Dubai for finalisation.

### **Contacting the department**

For pre-lodgement queries, you can contact the department by phone on 13 18 81 (in Australia), visit the department's website at [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au) or visit your nearest immigration office. For contact details of your nearest immigration office go to <http://www.immi.gov.au/contacts/offices.htm>.

For post-lodgement enquiries, where your application is being assessed at the Victoria OHPC, you can contact the centre by phone on 1300 658 095 (in Australia) or +61 3 9235 3850 (outside Australia), or by email to [victoria.ohpc@immi.gov.au](mailto:victoria.ohpc@immi.gov.au).

For other post-lodgement enquiries where the application is in Dubai, clients can contact the office by phone on +971 4 508 7200 or by email to [immigration.dubai@dfat.gov.au](mailto:immigration.dubai@dfat.gov.au).