



Australian Government

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

## Immigration assistance

### Do penalties apply if an unregistered person provides immigration assistance?

It is a criminal offence for an unregistered person in Australia to provide immigration assistance. Penalties of up to 10 years jail can apply.

For more information about visa options visit [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au) or phone 131 881.

For more information about registered migration agents contact the Migration Agents Registration Authority at:

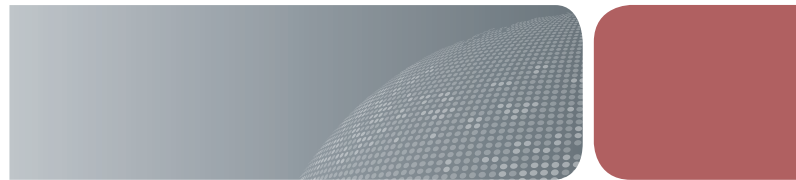
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For more information visit  
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## What is immigration assistance?

In Australia, only certain people can provide immigration assistance to people who want to enter or stay in Australia. Immigration assistance may involve:

- providing advice to an applicant, sponsor or nominator about visa applications
- preparing or helping to prepare a visa application, a cancellation review application, a nomination or sponsorship
- representing applicants before courts or review proceedings
- helping with a request for ministerial intervention.

## Who can provide immigration assistance?

In Australia, only people registered as migration agents may provide immigration assistance. The following people may also provide immigration assistance if they do not charge a fee:

- close family members (for example, spouses, children, adopted children, parents, brothers or sisters)
- sponsors or nominators on a visa application
- parliamentarians or their staff
- officials whose duties include providing immigration assistance (for example, Legal Aid providers)
- members of diplomatic missions, consular posts or international organisations.

Anyone can help with a request for ministerial intervention as long as they do not charge a fee.

Only registered migration agents can receive a fee or reward for providing immigration assistance.

## What immigration activities can unregistered people undertake?

Unregistered people can help applicants by:

- posting or delivering a visa application to the department on behalf of an applicant
- undertaking clerical work to prepare, or help prepare a visa application
- providing translation or interpretation services to help prepare a visa application
- advising a person that he or she must have a visa to stay in Australia
- passing on information from a third party, without comment or explanation, for example, information publicly available from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship
- being nominated to receive correspondence on behalf of a visa applicant.