



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

Vulnerable Child visa - Step by step guide

Subclass 802

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1. Before applying

1.1. Confirm status in Australia

Confirm the child is not an Australian citizen, permanent resident or eligible New Zealand citizen by checking their visa status using [Visa Entitlement Verification Online](#) system.

1.2. Get help with the application

The State or Territory Government Welfare Authority (STGWA) should consider whether they want to engage:

- a [registered migration agent](#) or
- a [legal practitioner](#).

1.3. Unauthorised maritime arrivals (UMA)

If a child is classified as an unauthorised maritime arrival (UMA) because they arrived to Australia by sea to Australia without a valid visa (typically seeking asylum), or one/both of their parents are classified UMA's, then additional steps (including [Ministerial Intervention](#)) may need to be taken before the child can validly lodge a Subclass 802 visa.

In these cases it is strongly recommended the STGWA engage a migration agent or legal practitioner for advice and assistance, as these cases can be complex.

1.4. No further stay waiver

If the child has condition 8503 – *No further stay* applied on their current or most recently held visa, they will need to request and receive a waiver of this condition before they can lodge a valid application.

To request a waiver use the [No Further Stay waiver request form](#).

2. Gather relevant documents

2.1. Letter of Support

Provide a letter which contains the following:

- states the STGWA supports the child's permanent visa application; and
- sets out:
 - the circumstances leading to the involvement of a STGWA in the welfare of the child; and
 - the STGWA's reasons for supporting the child's application for permanent residency in Australia; and
- describes the nature of the STGWA's continued involvement in the welfare of the child; and
- shows the letterhead of the STGWA; and
- is signed by a manager or director employed by the STGWA.

2.2. Passport

Provide certified copies of the child's current or most recent passport showing their photo, personal details, and passport issue and expiry dates.

2.3. Photographs

Provide 2 passport-size photos (45mm x 35mm) of the child, which are less than 6 months old.

2.4. Court documents

Provide certified copies of court documents which show the child is under the care of the relevant Australian state or territory Minister until they reach 18 years of age.

2.5. Identity documents

Provide certified copies of any available identity documents, which may include a:

- Passport
- National identity card
- Birth certificate
- Change of name certificate

2.6. Character documents

If the child has lived in Australia for 12 months or more since turning 16, they will need to provide a certified copy of an Australian national police certificate.

To apply for an Australian police certificate, submit an [Australian Federal Police National Police Check application form](#).

If the child is 16 or over, they must meet the [Character requirement](#). There will likely be significant delays in the processing of the child's application if they have a [substantial criminal record](#).

2.7. Tell us you are getting help

To nominate someone to:

- receive the application correspondence, use [Form 956A Appointment or withdrawal of an authorised recipient](#)
- provide immigration assistance, use [Form 956 Appointment of a registered migration agent, legal practitioner or exempt person](#).

Send written notification or your forms with your paper application.

3. Apply for the visa

3.1. Complete the application form

Complete the following:

- [Form 47CH Application for migration to Australia by a child \(536KB PDF\)](#)

Please ensure that the email address contact provided in the Form 47CH, Part A will be actively monitored whilst the application is processed. Failure to respond to emails in a timely manner can cause significant delays in finalising these cases.

3.2. Post or courier

Applications for this visa can't be submitted in person.

Send the application by post or courier to the Child and Other Family Processing Centre in Perth at the address on the Form 47CH.

Include all required documents and forms with your application.

3.3. Fee

There is **no cost** to lodge a Subclass 802 visa application, when it is lodged with a letter of support.

3.4. Documents

To enable faster processing, all relevant documents listed in section 2 should be provided when the application is posted/couriered.

3.5. Valid application requirements

For the application to be valid, and therefore accepted and processed the following must be met when the application is lodged:

- Form 47CH completed in its entirety and signed; and
- letter of support provided with all requirements as listed above met; and
- the above to documents are posted or couriered to the WA addresses listed on the form 47CH; and
- the child is in Australia and is under 18, on the day the Department receives the application.

In rare cases, the following must also be met at time of lodgement:

- The *no further stay* condition on the child's current/most recent visa that has been waived; and/or

- if the child is classified as a UMA, the Minister for Immigration has agreed to lift the relevant application bar, to allow the child to validly lodge the subclass 802 visa application.

4. After applying

4.1. Acknowledgement of application

We will provide written confirmation when we have received the application and documents. This may be up to 3 weeks after it is received by the Perth processing office.

4.2. Health exams

We will advise in writing when to arrange the child's [health examinations](#), currently these are conducted by the Department's service provider [Bupa](#).

If the child is unable to get a health examination appointment within 4 weeks, Bupa may contact the welfare authority contact person via phone to arrange a priority appointment.

The Department usually receives the results of the health exam within 1 week of their completion.

4.3. Maintain current contact details

To mitigate unnecessary delays, if the welfare authority contact will be uncontactable for more than 2 weeks, the contact should advise via the [Child and orphan relative visa processing centre form](#) of an alternative contact person and their email address and phone number.

4.4. Bridging visa

The child is automatically taken to have applied for a bridging visa when the Child (subclass 802) is validly lodged, and will be granted a bridging visa, so that they can maintain a lawful status in Australia, whilst waiting for the Child (subclass 802) visa to be processed.

4.5. Medicare

In most cases, vulnerable child visa applicants will not be eligible for [Medicare enrolment](#) whilst their Subclass 802 visa is processed.

4.6. Communication during processing

Any information and documents (that were not provided with the application) that you want to be considered should be submitted to the Perth office via the [Child and orphan relative visa processing centre form](#).

4.7. Withdrawal of support/application

If the STGWA no longer wants to support the application, or the STGWA or child want to withdraw the application, this must be advised in writing via the [Child and orphan relative visa processing centre form](#).

5. Visa outcome

As these applications are prioritised, in most cases they are finalised within 2-3 months of lodgement.

To grant the visa, the child must be in Australia when we make our decision.

We will advise of our decision in writing.

6. If the visa is granted

6.1. Permanent resident

The child becomes a permanent resident of Australia the day the visa is granted

6.2. Travel to and from Australia for 5 years

The child can travel to and from Australia as many times as they want for 5 years from the date we grant this visa. This is as long as the travel facility of this visa remains valid.

If the child wants to travel after the initial 5-year travel facility:

- they will need to apply for and be granted a [Resident Return \(RRV\)](#) visa so they can re-enter Australia as a permanent resident
- they might also want to consider Australian citizenship. If they become an Australian citizen, they don't require a visa to re-enter Australia. See more about eligibility requirements and current processing times for Australian citizenship

6.3. Becoming an Australian citizen

After a certain time, the child might be eligible for Australian citizenship. Find out more about [becoming a citizen](#).

Note: STGWA's should always ensure they refer to the [Department's website](#) for the most current information