

63. IMMIGRATION ADVICE AND APPLICATION ASSISTANCE SCHEME

The Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Scheme (IAAAS) provides:

(1) Application assistance to:

- protection visa (PV) applicants in immigration detention;
- disadvantaged PV applicants (including Temporary Protection Visa holders) in the community; and
- disadvantaged non-PV applicants in the community.

(2) Immigration advice to disadvantaged members of the community.

In 2000-2001, IAAAS service providers provided assistance to 4,377 cases of new asylum seekers in detention, 337 new protection visa and 89 other new visa applicants in the community.

Assistance and advice is funded by the Commonwealth at no cost to the applicant and is delivered by 19 service providers throughout Australia (see attached list of service providers).

Application assistance

Application assistance is provided to eligible applicants to prepare, lodge and present applications for visas. It also includes application assistance at the merits review stage when a primary application has been refused. Application assistance does not, however, include assistance with applications for judicial review through the courts.

Eligibility criteria

People eligible for publicly funded application assistance under IAAAS include:

- all people in immigration detention who seek to apply for a protection visa;
- prospective protection visa applicants (including Temporary Protection Visa holders) in the community with cases of merit who are experiencing financial hardship **and** are disadvantaged, for example because of their non-English speaking background or are suffering a disability as a result of past torture and trauma; and
- other disadvantaged prospective onshore visa applicants in the community in greatest need who are unable to access the services of a registered migration agent.

The IAAAS is not intended to provide universal assistance to all visa applicants. IAAAS service providers are selected, amongst other things, on their capacity to focus assistance on those cases in most need.

The assistance provided by IAAAS should not be confused with assistance provided by Legal Aid

Services. All inquiries for legal aid services should be directed to those organisations or to offices of the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department in Australia.

Immigration advice

Immigration advice is provided to eligible members of the community who are seeking to:

- prepare and lodge their own visa applications;
- extend or to vary the conditions of their visas; and
- sponsor applicants.

Eligibility criteria

People eligible for publicly funded immigration advice under IAAAS include those people in the community who are unable to access the services of a registered migration agent due to financial hardship **and** are considered "disadvantaged" on account of:

- non-English speaking background;
- different cultural background;
- illiteracy;
- living in a remote location;
- suffering physical or psychological disability, including past torture and trauma; or
- suffering physical or psychological harm resulting from domestic violence.

IAAAS funding 2000-2001

In 2000-2001 the total cost of providing IAAAS services was \$10.829 million comprising:

- \$10.123 million in demand driven expenditure to provide application assistance for protection visa applicants in immigration detention;
- \$291,000 for application assistance to disadvantaged protection visa applicants in the community;
- \$125,000 for application assistance to other disadvantaged visa applicants in the community; and
- \$290,000 for immigration advice to disadvantaged protection visa applicants in the community.

Information on Australian immigration matters is available through DIMA's Internet homepage:

<http://www.immi.gov.au>

The Department also operates a national telephone inquiry line on 131 881, for the cost of a local call anywhere in Australia.

Fact Sheet 63. Produced by the Public Affairs Section, Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs. Revised on 7 November 2001.

IAAAS Service Providers 2001-2002 and 2002-2003

NEW SOUTH WALES

Craddock Murray Neumann Solicitors 255 Castlereagh Street SYDNEY NSW 2000 Phone: (02) 9283 4755	Application Assistance PV Detention (Port Hedland, Curtin & Woomera) Application Assistance Disadvantaged PV Community
M Pleno & Association Pty Ltd PO Box 1101 BANKSTOWN NSW 1885 Phone: (02) 9790 6971	Application Assistance PV Detention (Port Hedland, Curtin & Woomera)
Immigration Advice and Rights Centre Inc Level 4, 414 Elizabeth Street SURREY HILLS NSW 2010 Phone: (02) 9281 1609	Application Assistance Disadvantaged Non-PV Community Immigration Advice Disadvantaged Non-PV Community
Legal Aid Commission of New South Wales PO Box K847 HAYMARKET NSW 1238 Phone: (02) 9219 5915	Application Assistance Disadvantaged PV Community Application Assistance Disadvantaged Non-PV Community Immigration Advice Disadvantaged Non-PV Community Immigration Advice Disadvantaged PV Community
Partners in Law Suite 309, Dixon House 413-415 Sussex Street SYDNEY NSW 2000 Phone: (02) 9211 4700	Application Assistance PV Detention (NSW)
Playfair Visa & Migration Services Level 5, 37 Bligh Street SYDNEY NSW 2000 Phone: (02) 9233 8899	Application Assistance PV Detention (NSW)
Migrant Resource Centre of Newcastle and Hunter Region Ltd 8 Chaucer Street HAMILTON NSW 2303 Phone: (02) 4969 3399	Application Assistance Disadvantaged PV Community Application Assistance Disadvantaged Non-PV Community Immigration Advice Disadvantaged Non-PV Community Immigration Advice Disadvantaged PV Community
Refugee Advice and Casework Service Level 8, Suite 8C 46-56 Kippax street SURREY HILLS NSW 2010 Phone: (02) 9211 4001	Application Assistance PV Detention (Port Hedland, Curtin & Woomera) Application Assistance PV Detention (NSW) Application Assistance Disadvantaged PV Community Immigration Advice Disadvantaged PV Community

VICTORIA

Australian Migration Program & Investments Level 10, 461 Bourke Street MELBOURNE VIC 3000 Phone: (03) 9642 8560	Application Assistance PV Detention (Port Hedland, Curtin & Woomera)
Macpherson and Kelley Solicitors 40-42 Scott Street DANDENONG VIC 3175 Phone: (03) 9794 2626	Application Assistance PV Detention (Port Hedland, Curtin & Woomera) Application Assistance PV Detention (VIC) Application Assistance Disadvantaged PV Community Application Assistance Disadvantaged Non-PV Community Immigration Advice Disadvantaged Non-PV Community Immigration Advice Disadvantaged PV Community
Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre Inc 95 Brunswick Street Fitzroy VIC 3065 Phone: (03) 9483 1144	Application Assistance PV Detention (Port Hedland, Curtin & Woomera) Application Assistance PV Detention (VIC) Application Assistance Disadvantaged PV Community Application Assistance Disadvantaged Non-PV Community Immigration Advice Disadvantaged Non-PV Community Immigration Advice Disadvantaged PV Community

Victoria Legal Aid 350 Queen Street MELBOURNE VIC 3000 Phone: (03) 9269 0280	Application Assistance PV Detention (VIC) Application Assistance Disadvantaged PV Community
---	--

QUEENSLAND

South Brisbane Immigration and Community Legal Services Inc 1st Floor, Boundary Chambers 170 Boundary Street WEST END QLD 4101 Phone: (07) 3846 3189	Application Assistance Disadvantaged PV Community Application Assistance Disadvantaged Non-PV Community Immigration Advice Disadvantaged Non-PV Community Immigration Advice Disadvantaged PV Community
Craddock Murray Neumann Solicitors 255 Castlereagh Street SYDNEY NSW 2000 Phone: (02) 9283 4755	Application Assistance PV Detention (QLD)

TASMANIA

Migrant Resource Centre (Northern Tasmania) Inc 1st Floor, 95-99 Cameron Street PO Box 824 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250 Phone: (03) 6331 2300	Application Assistance Disadvantaged Non-PV Community Immigration Advice Disadvantaged Non-PV Community Immigration Advice Disadvantaged PV Community
Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre Inc 95 Brunswick Street FITZROY VIC 3065 Phone: (03) 9483 1144	Application Assistance Disadvantaged PV Community

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission Locked Bag 11 DARWIN NT 0801 Phone: (08) 8999 3000	Application Assistance PV Detention (NT) Application Assistance Disadvantaged PV Community Application Assistance Disadvantaged Non-PV Community Immigration Advice Disadvantaged Non-PV Community Immigration Advice Disadvantaged PV Community
---	--

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Catholic Migrant Centre 25 Victoria Square PERTH WA 6000 Phone: (08) 9221 1727	Application Assistance PV Detention (WA) Application Assistance Disadvantaged PV Community Application Assistance Disadvantaged Non-PV Community Immigration Advice Disadvantaged Non-PV Community Immigration Advice Disadvantaged PV Community
Legal Aid Western Australia 55 George's Terrace PERTH WA 6000 Phone: (08) 9261 6222	Application Assistance Disadvantaged PV Community Application Assistance Disadvantaged Non-PV Community Immigration Advice Disadvantaged Non-PV Community Immigration Advice Disadvantaged PV Community
Southern Communities Advocacy, Legal and Education Service Ground Floor, Lotteries House Civic Blvd ROCKINGHAM WA 6168 Phone: (08) 9528 6077	Application Assistance Disadvantaged PV Community Application Assistance Disadvantaged Non-PV Community Immigration Advice Disadvantaged Non-PV Community Immigration Advice Disadvantaged PV Community

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Australian Refugee Association Inc 304 Henley Beach Road UNDERDALE SA 5032 Phone: (08) 8354 2951	Application Assistance Disadvantaged PV Community Application Assistance Disadvantaged Non-PV Community Immigration Advice Disadvantaged Non-PV Community Immigration Advice Disadvantaged PV Community
Libby Hogarth & Association Suite E, 105 Gouger Street ADELAIDE SA 5000 Phone: (08) 8231 3055	Application Assistance PV Detention (SA)