

## Code of Behaviour For Bridging E Visa Holders

### *Introduction*

The Australian Government has introduced a Code of Behaviour which will apply to certain adults who are considered for the grant of a Bridging E visa (BVE or bridging visa). The code will apply to all adult illegal maritime arrivals who are considered for the grant of a BVE.

### *What is the code of behaviour?*

The code describes how people are expected to behave while they are living in the Australian community on a bridging visa. It also describes behaviour that will not be accepted.

The code has been introduced to make sure that people who are granted a bridging visa behave appropriately while in the Australian community. The Australian Government and community expect non-citizens to abide by the law, respect Australian values and cooperate with government authorities.

### *Who needs to sign the code?*

If you arrived in Australia illegally by boat and are 18 years of age or older you must sign the code before you can be considered for the grant of a Bridging E visa.

If you have previously been granted a Bridging E visa by the Minister under section 195A of the *Migration Act 1958*, you must also sign the code before you can be granted a new Bridging E visa. This is very important if your bridging visa has ceased or is about to cease. You will not be considered for a further bridging visa until the department has received a copy of the current code which you have signed and which has been witnessed properly.

Certain other categories of people are also required to sign the code. The department will tell you if you are in one of those categories.

If you are unsure whether you need to sign the code, please contact the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

### *Why do you need to sign it?*

Signing the code means that you understand that if you do not abide by the code, your income support could be reduced or ceased or your bridging visa could be cancelled and that you may be detained and transferred to an offshore processing centre.

### *What is the code about?*

The code describes the behaviour expected of people who are living in the Australian community on a Bridging E visa.

The code does not contain all the rights and duties under Australian law of people granted a bridging visa. By signing the code you agree to behave according to values that are important to the Australian society while working towards the resolution of your immigration status.

Australia is a free and democratic country where men and women are equal. People are expected to show respect for one another and not to abuse or threaten others.

You must obey Australian laws while living in Australia. This means, for example, you must not commit violence or inappropriate sexual contact of any kind. You must not lie to a government official or give false identity documents. Your visa may be cancelled due to criminal conduct in Australia or overseas.

### *What do 'antisocial' and 'disruptive' activities mean?*

The terms used in the code take their ordinary meanings.

- To 'harass' another person means to persistently or continually disturb or irritate them.
- To 'intimidate' another person means to cause them fear through your words or actions, including trying to force someone to do something.
- To 'bully' another person means to act in an unwanted or aggressive manner towards them, especially if you are in a more powerful position. Bullying includes making threats, spreading rumours, attacking someone physically or verbally, or excluding someone from a group or place on purpose.
- 'Anti-social' means an action that is against the order of society. This may include damaging property, spitting or swearing in public or other actions that other people might find offensive.
- 'Disruptive' means to cause disorder or to disturb someone or something.

### *How do I sign the code and have it witnessed?*

You must sign and date this form, *Code of Behaviour for Bridging E Visa Holders*, and provide your address and identity details. Your signature should be witnessed and your identity verified by an eligible witness. If you have been issued with photo identification, you should show the witness your photo identification (for example, valid passport, Immicard or driver's licence).

Eligible witnesses include:

- officers of the Department of Immigration and Border Protection,
- Community Assistance Support (CAS) and Asylum Seeker

Assistance Scheme (ASAS) case workers,

- Community Detention service providers, and
- registered migration agents.

Other categories of people who may witness your signature and identity are listed on the last page of this form.

### *What does the witness need to do?*

The role of the witness is to certify that the person has signed the code in front of them and is the person whose identity details are given. The witness is not responsible for ensuring that the person signing the code has understood the code or will abide by it.

The witness will check your photo identification to confirm your identity and then watch you sign the form. The witness will also need to sign the form and provide their details.

### *Where do I send the signed code?*

The signed code may be scanned and emailed to: [bvreporting@immi.gov.au](mailto:bvreporting@immi.gov.au)

If you are unable to email the signed copy, the original signed document may be sent to the following address:

IMA BVE Processing Team  
Department of Immigration and Border Protection  
GPO Box 9984  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

You are advised to keep a copy for your records.

### *What if I do not sign the code?*

If you do not sign the code you will not be eligible to receive a Bridging E visa.

If you do not sign the code and are:

- in immigration detention, you will remain in immigration detention;
- in community detention, you will not be considered for a bridging

- visa and may be returned to immigration detention;
- in the community having previously been granted a bridging visa, you will not receive a further Bridging E visa. In addition to losing access to services while in the community, such as Medicare and income support payments, as an unlawful non-citizen you will be liable to be returned to immigration detention.

***What happens if I breach the code?***

It will be a condition of your bridging visa that you do not breach the code. If you breach the code, your bridging visa may be cancelled. If your bridging visa is cancelled, you will be returned to immigration detention.

The department may take other actions as appropriate. This includes counselling you on your behaviour and sending a warning letter to remind you of your obligations. The department may also reduce or suspend any income support payments you are receiving through the CAS and ASAS programmes.

***Will I need to sign the code again if my visa expires?***

You will only need to sign the code once, except if there are changes to the code. If the wording of the code is changed you will need to sign the new version before you can be granted a further bridging visa.

***Where can I get help to sign the code?***

If you are receiving support through the Community Assistance Support (CAS) or Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme (ASAS) programmes, your case worker may be able to assist you to understand the code and to find an appropriate person who can witness your signature.

Information about the code is available in community languages on the department's website at: [www.immi.gov.au/ima](http://www.immi.gov.au/ima).

If you need further help to understand and sign the code, contact the Department of Immigration and Border Protection on 13 18 11.

If you are a community detainee, your Community Detention service provider or departmental case manager may be able to assist you.

Home page [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au)

General enquiry line Telephone 131811 during business hours in Australia to speak to an operator (recorded information outside these hours).

If you need the assistance of an interpreter to contact the Department, ring the **Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National)** on 13 14 50 during business hours and tell the operator which language you speak.

***About the information you give***

The department is authorised to collect information on this form under the *Migration Act 1958* (the Act). The information will be used for purposes relating to the administration of the Act.

The information might also be disclosed to agencies that are authorised to receive information relating to border control, education, health, community services and social welfare.

Information forms 993i *Safeguarding your personal information* and 1243i *Your personal identifying information*, give details of agencies to which your information might also be disclosed. These forms are available from the department's website [www.immi.gov.au/allforms/](http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/) or from any office of the department.

# Code of Behaviour

This Code of Behaviour contains a list of expectations about how you will behave at all times while in Australia. It does not contain all your rights and duties under Australian law. If you are found to have breached the Code of Behaviour, you could have your income support reduced, or your visa may be cancelled. If your visa is cancelled, you will be returned to immigration detention and may be transferred to an offshore processing centre.

## While you are living in the Australian community:

- You **must not** disobey any Australian laws including Australian road laws; you **must** cooperate with all lawful instructions given to you by police and other government officials;
- You **must not** make sexual contact with another person without that person's consent, regardless of their age; you must never make sexual contact with someone under the age of consent;
- You **must not** take part in, or get involved in any kind of criminal behaviour in Australia, including violence against any person, including your family or government officials; deliberately damage property; give false identity documents or lie to a government official;
- You **must not** harass, intimidate or bully any other person or group of people or engage in any anti-social or disruptive activities that are inconsiderate, disrespectful or threaten the peaceful enjoyment of other members of the community;
- You **must not** refuse to comply with any health undertaking provided by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection or direction issued by the Chief Medical Officer (Immigration) to undertake treatment for a health condition for public health purposes;
- You **must** co-operate with all reasonable requests from the department or its agents in regard to the resolution of your status, including requests to attend interviews or to provide or obtain identity and/or travel documents.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ [name to be written]

agree to abide by this Code of Behaviour while I am living in Australia on a Bridging E visa.

I understand that if I do not abide by the Code of Behaviour my income support may be reduced or ceased, or my visa may be cancelled and I will be returned to immigration detention.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Residential Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Identity number\*: \_\_\_\_\_

\* may use boat identity number, ImmiCard number, or

### Witness details

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Role/position: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Photo Id checked: Yes / No