

Issue for June 2022: Converting TPVs & SHEVs

Supported by ARAN, RAR, G4R, & NARN

Available to download at - <https://ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org.au/write-a-letter>



Included in this kit is the information you need to create your own letters or use the proformas

- Guide and Background notes prepared by ARAN's Letter Writing Network.
- 2 proforma letters that you can copy (and personalise) to send by post or email.
- Postal Addresses for MPs and Senators
- Email addresses for MPs and Senators

Personalised letters are best –

- You might like to use the **AIDA** principle
 - **A - Attention** - grab the recipient's attention. Say something positive about the reader that is directed towards the focus of your letter. Stimulate the recipient's curiosity
 - **I - Interest & Information** - encourage the recipient to read on.
 - **D - Desire** - Getting the reader to want to do what you are seeking - in their interest to do so.
 - **A - Action** - inform the reader of the action you want them to take.

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Regards,  
The ARAN Letter Writing Network  
[austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com)

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR ...

### Converting Temporary Protection Visas (TPVs & SHEVs)

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As its name suggests, a temporary protection visa only permits a person to remain in Australia temporarily.

- Temporary Protection Visas - TPVs - can last for up to three years.
- Safe Haven Enterprise Visas - SHEV - allow people to stay in Australia temporarily for 5 years

After a TPV (or SHEV) expires, the holder needs to reapply for another TPV (or SHEV).

NB - A **Permanent** Protection Visa grants the holder **permanent** resident status.

- Temporary Protection Visas (TPV or SHEV) are given to asylum seekers who are found to be in need of protection, in place of a Permanent Protection Visa. Ordinarily, asylum seekers would be granted refugee status under the same criteria, but instead only temporary protection (lasting 3 years) is given.
- TPVs were first introduced in Australia in 1999 and were eventually removed in 2008. During this period 11,206 refugees were placed on Temporary Protection Visas and eventually 95% were given permanent protection. TPVs were reintroduced by the Coalition Government on 18 October 2013.
- SHEVs were introduced by the Coalition Government in 2014.

ASRC Fact Sheet - <https://asrc.org.au/resources/fact-sheet/temporary-protection-visas/>

**Choose 2 or 3 dot points to use in your letter.**

**Paraphrase these using your own words.**

- Temporary protection visas (TPVs & SHEVs) are unfair and punitive in nature, and have lost community support.
- Temporary protection visas (TPVs & SHEVs) have not deterred boat arrivals nor stop deaths at sea.
- Temporary protection visas (TPVs & SHEVs) have created an underclass in Australian society. People are:
  - Denied access to most of Australia's social safety net, receiving little or no financial or housing support
  - Trapped in poverty
  - Unable to access English classes or translation services
  - Unable to apply for family reunion
  - Forced to live in ongoing uncertainty about their future
  - Suffering psychological trauma as a result of their treatment

**Key request** - Convert TPVs and SHEVs to Permanent Protection

## Addresses for your letters:

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**1. The Hon Andrew Giles, Minister for Immigration**

PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: [andrew.giles.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:andrew.giles.mp@aph.gov.au)

**2. The Hon Clare O'Neil, Minister for Home Affairs**

PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: [clare.oneil.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:clare.oneil.mp@aph.gov.au)

**You may also like to send an email to your local MP**

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**Canberra Postal Address for all Senators**

PO Box 6100  
Senate,  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

**Canberra Postal Address for all MPs**

PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

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Find electorate postal and email addresses for your local MP:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators\\_and\\_Members/Guidelines\\_for\\_Contacting\\_Senators\\_and\\_Members](https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Guidelines_for_Contacting_Senators_and_Members)

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## PROFORMA LETTER - Converting Temporary Protection Visas (TPVs & SHEVs)

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Dear Minister Giles

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister for Immigration.

I write regarding the ALP's commitment to **convert temporary protection to permanent protection for refugees** in Australia.

Permanent protection will end the cycle of uncertainty and suffering for over 19,000 people, allowing them to rebuild their lives with true dignity and hope, and a sense of belonging.

Most people have been on TPVs for over 10 years. This uncertainty limits their employment options and their children's education. It also significantly impacts their mental health.

I look forward to the **speedy implementation** of this much anticipated commitment by your government.

Yours sincerely

*[your name and address]*