Refugee Sector Letter Blitz

   

**Issue for June 2022:**

**Converting TPVs & SHEVs** Supported by ARAN, RAR, G4R, & NARN

**Available to download at -** [**https://ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org.au/write-a-letter**](https://ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org.au/write-a-letter)

**

**ISSUE - PERMANENT - PROTECTION**

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.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Regards,

The ARAN Letter Writing Network

austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR …**

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

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/**](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:**

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

1. **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

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

**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

Find electorate postal and email addresses for your local MP:

https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators\_and\_Members/Guidelines\_for\_Contacting\_Senators\_and\_Members

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

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]*