

## **Important information for all certified Locally Engaged Employees**

If you have not already done so, you must also apply to the Department of Home Affairs for a humanitarian visa to be able to migrate to Australia, unless you are already resettled in a third country such as the United States, United Kingdom or Canada. Being certified as an LEE is not enough to migrate. You must have a visa. The Department of Home Affairs is prioritising processing of visa applications received from certified Afghan LEE.

If you have already applied for a humanitarian visa to Australia and been refused, and have subsequently been certified through the Afghan LEE Program, you will need to apply for a humanitarian visa to Australia again. Please ensure that you provide a copy of your LEE certification letter in your humanitarian visa application.

Details on how to apply are in the **attached** document. You can **lodge** your application form electronically, by mail or by courier – however your visa application **cannot be finalised and granted** until you are living outside of Afghanistan.

Please do not send your humanitarian visa application to DFAT. **You must lodge your application directly with the Department of Home Affairs as outlined above.** If you lodge your visa application and then travel outside Afghanistan, you should e-mail your new address to [AfghanLEE.amman@dfat.gov.au](mailto:AfghanLEE.amman@dfat.gov.au).

To be resettled in Australia, all applicants must meet the Refugee and Humanitarian (Class XB) visa requirements which are set out in Australian legislation.

Responses to Frequently Asked Questions about the LEE program are available [here](#).

### **For Certified Locally Engaged Employees currently in Pakistan**

The Government of Pakistan has issued an 'Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan'. This tells people residing without a valid visa for Pakistan to leave voluntarily or face deportation.

Key Messages for people residing in Pakistan are that:

- If you have no legal status in Pakistan, please consider moving away from Islamabad and Rawalpindi
- If you are able, you should hold a valid Pakistan visa and passport to be considered legal in country.
- Please ensure you provide Home Affairs with updated contact details so you can be contacted urgently if needed.

The [Department of Home Affairs website](#) contains further information about the Australian Government's response to this Plan. The Australian Government is working to provide letters of assurance to people who:

- hold an Australian visa;
- have applied for an Australian Humanitarian visa, which is close to being finalised, or a Family or Partner visa; or
- have been certified as Afghan Locally Engaged Employees (LEE).

DFAT will be preparing letters of assurance to all certified DFAT Afghan LEE, who we understand are not already located in Australia, as a precautionary measure. The letter of assurance will include your photograph, full name, gender, date of birth, and passport number. This letter will be used to help you remain in Pakistan while your application for an Australian visa is considered.

To ensure the safety of any DFAT Afghan LEE located in Pakistan, DFAT will be disclosing to the Government of Pakistan a list of all certified DFAT Afghan LEE who we understand are not located in Australia.