



YOUR VISA. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.



Protect yourself from visa scams and false promises

There is no 'shortcut' to getting a visa to Australia – even if someone tells you there is.

That's exactly what scam agents rely on. They know how much trust is placed in word-of-mouth advice (especially through family, friends, or messaging apps) and they exploit that trust to deceive you.

If you get caught in one of these scams, the consequences can be devastating. You could be removed from Australia and have to pay thousands of dollars for your own removal. You could have a lot of trouble getting future visas to Australia and other countries. Your family may even find it harder to visit Australia in the future.

Don't risk your future on bad advice. If it sounds easy or too good to be true, it's a scam.

Read this fact sheet carefully. It could be the difference between receiving good news or closing the door on future opportunities for you and your family.



What are the facts?

- Fake agents are targeting Pakistani migrants with visa scams.
- These agents charge high fees, make false promises, and use false documents.
- If someone guarantees a visa or permanent residency, it's a scam. Nobody can guarantee success in an application.
- Using false information and documents in a visa application can lead to large fines, visa cancellation, detention and removal from Australia, and a ban from Australia for up to 10 years.
- There are no shortcuts to getting an Australian visa.



How scams work

Scam agents often operate on social media and messaging apps, where they reach out to people like you looking for a visa. They often present fake success stories or manipulate news stories to gain your trust.

Once they've earned your trust, they ask for large upfront payments, claiming it's part of the process. In many cases, they even submit false documents on your behalf without your knowledge. After taking your money, they disappear, leaving you on your own to face the consequences.

Things to remember

- Always know what kind of visa you're applying for.
- Do not pay anyone without checking their credentials.
- Never lie in a visa application, it could affect your future forever.



What can go wrong?

If you apply for an Australian visa using false or misleading information, there may be very serious consequences. You may:

- **Risk your family's chances** of getting an Australian visa.
- Be **detained and removed** from Australia.
- Be forced to pay back **thousands in removal costs**.
- Be **refused future visas** to Australia and other countries.
- Lose your or your family's money, or end up with long-term debt.
- End up with **very large fines and a ban from Australia for up to 10 years**.

Don't trust any information you read or receive without checking it through official government sources to make sure it's accurate and up to date. Your future, and your family's future, depend on it.



Check all advice with official Australian Government sources

Don't trust any information you read or receive without checking it through official Australian government sources, which have the latest visa information. These are:

- The [Australian Department of Home Affairs](#).
- The [Australian High Commission in Pakistan](#).
- Registered migration agents listed on the Office of Migration Agents Registration Authority (OMARA) [website](#).

How to spot the warning signs

You might be dealing with a scam if:

- they contact you via social media or messaging apps like WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger
- they guarantee you a visa
- you're told you can "switch visas" once you arrive
- you're encouraged to work on a Visitor visa (this is illegal)
- they ask for large upfront payments
- they charge more than the visa price listed on the [Australian Department of Home Affairs website](#)
- they pressure you to act quickly
- you're asked to hand over your passport or other identity documents
- you're asked to lie in your application
- they refuse to share your visa application with you in the Australian Department of Home Affairs portal (known as [ImmiAccount](#))
- they tell you not to discuss it with other people
- they don't explain what visa you're applying for
- they guarantee you a job once you arrive
- they offer to arrange your transportation and suggest you transit through a third country
- they claim to be a migration agent registered in Australia but they don't have a Migration Agent Registration Number (MARN) and aren't listed on the [OMARA website](#).

