

Important Change for People Affected by the 'Data Breach'

A new law means that some people affected by the 2014 'data breach' will be allowed to have their claims for protection assessed or reassessed.

What the new law means

86 people will be allowed to apply (or reapply) for temporary visa for protection. The new application will be assessed by the Fast Track process.

Who is affected

The law affects some people seeking asylum in Australia who had their personal information inadvertently made available to the public by the Department of Immigration on 11 February 2014 (**data breach**).

It includes people who have already received protection visa refusal decisions.

The change to law was introduced on 17 August 2017.

The process

The Department is writing to the 86 people affected by this change.

The letter states that people will soon receive another letter, informing them that they are eligible to apply for a protection visa.

Critically people who have previously applied for a protection visa which was then refused will only have **7 working days** in which to lodge a new application.

What you should do

If you may be affected, you should:

- **ensure your contact details are up-to-date with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection; AND**
- **seek urgent legal assistance.**

If you live in Western Australia and need free legal assistance, you can contact us:

- in person at 16b Sunbury Road, Victoria Park
- by phone on 9227 7311

[Community focused legal services for people new to Australia](#)

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