

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: [Visitors Program](#); [Student Visa Help Desk](#); [Family Programme Management](#); [Refs Help Onshore](#); [SFVP Program Support](#)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii); [BV ABC Policy](#)
Subject: FW: HPRM: BVB processing arrangements [SEC=OFFICIAL: Sensitive]
Date: Friday, 2 October 2020 4:18:45 PM

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Dear program managers

Please see below for distribution to your processing officers.

Happy to discuss.

Thanks and kind regards

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director

Border and Events Visas Section | Temporary Visa Program Branch

Immigration Programs Division | Immigration and Settlement Services Group

Department of Home Affairs

P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\) @homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)
Sent: Friday, 2 October 2020 2:45 PM
To: Temporary Visa Directors [s. 47E\(d\) @homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.47E(d)@homeaffairs.gov.au)
Cc: Skilled and Family Visa Program Directors <[s. 47E\(d\) @homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.47E(d)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\) @homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au); HPO Operational Planning and Performance [s. 47E\(d\) @homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.47E(d)@homeaffairs.gov.au); [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\) @homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au); Status Resolution Helpdesk <[s. 47E\(d\) @border.gov.au](mailto:s.47E(d)@border.gov.au)>; BV ABC Policy <[s. 47E\(d\) @homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.47E(d)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\) @homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au); [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\) @homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au); Border Measures COVID-19 <[s. 47E\(d\) @homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.47E(d)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>
Subject: HPRM: BVB processing arrangements [SEC=OFFICIAL: Sensitive]

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Dear all

Bridging B visa (BVB) applications

Following on from our message on 6 February 2020 in response to the outbreak of COVID-19, I would like to provide an update on processing arrangements for Bridging B visa (BVBs) applications.

Processing arrangements

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COVID-19 arrangements

Given Australia's border measures, it may be difficult for BVB holders to depart and return to Australia within the timeframe of their travel facility. And it is not guaranteed that a BVB holder will be granted an exemption to Australia's border restrictions in order to re-enter Australia, as requests for an exemption are assessed on a case by case basis, as per the criteria outlined on the [Departmental website](#). Therefore, to mitigate the risk of a BVB holder's visa ceasing while they are still outside Australia, case officers should give consideration to providing those who meet the criteria for grant with a 12 month travel facility.

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Further information

We hope this information is helpful. Further advice about the processing of BVB applications is available in the [BVB Procedural Instruction](#). For any questions not covered by the Procedural Instruction, case officers should contact the **s. 47E(d)**.

Kind regards

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Director Border & Events Visas

Temporary Visa Program | Immigration Programs Division

Immigration and Settlement Services Group

Department of Home Affairs

P: **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**

E: **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

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Acknowledgement of Country - signature block graphic 2020



From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 6 February 2020 2:50 PM
To: Temporary Visa Program Response s. 47E(d) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: Skilled and Family Visa Program Directors s. 47E(d) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Temporary Visa Directors s. 47E(d) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; HPO Operational Planning and Performance <s. 47E(d) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Status Resolution Helpdesk <s. 47E(d) @border.gov.au>; BV ABC Policy <s. 47E(d) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: HPRM: BVB Processing Instructions - Coronavirus [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

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Bridging B visa applications (BVB) – novel coronavirus

BVB applications can continue to be processed, assessed and decided as per the existing legislation and policy guidelines.

Each application is to be assessed on a case-by-case basis, with the decision maker taking into consideration the circumstances of the applicant and the purpose of the intended travel.

If the applicant has a substantial reason for wishing to travel to an area affected by the coronavirus travel restrictions:

- The location of the proposed travel is not sufficient in itself to refuse the BVB application on the basis of Schedule 2 clause 020.213.
- The applicant can be counselled about the travel restrictions and border control measures and advised that if they seek to return to Australia after travelling to, or transiting through, mainland China, they may be denied re-entry to Australia and their visa may be cancelled.
- If the BVB is granted, consideration should be given to issuing the BVB with a 12 month travel facility period. This would avoid the BVB inadvertently ceasing if the person is prevented from returning to Australia before their travel facility period expires.

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Director Border & Events Visas
Temporary Visa Program | Immigration Programs Division
Immigration and Settlement Services Group
Department of Home Affairs

P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au

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