

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: [Strategic Policy Division Support](#)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii); [Americas Engagement](#); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Brief for US IDC Thursday 26.2.26 [SEC=PROTECTED]
Date: Wednesday, 25 February 2026 5:58:10 PM
Attachments: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

PROTECTED

Hi FASO,

Please see below a brief for James for the US IDC. The briefing is structured in the form of an annotated agenda. However, to be on the safe side, I have also attached to this email is the agenda that DFAT sent to us for your benefit.

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

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

- In 2022, the US advised Australia of its intention to establish an Enhanced Border Security Partnership with Visa Waiver Program partners. s. 33(b)

s. 33(b)

- As part of the Enhanced Border Security Partnership, the US is seeking Australia's agreement to share real-time (or near real-time) biometric data (including criminal history) on Australian citizens. s. 33(a)(iii)
- The US has set a deadline of 31 December 2026 for Australia to demonstrate progress towards compliance, s. 33(a)(iii)

s. 33(a)(iii)

- s. 33(a)(iii)

This year, Home Affairs has received a steady increase in media enquiries, FOI requests, Senate Estimates questions and ministerial correspondence relating to the VWP and biometric data sharing with the US.

s. 33(a)(iii)

- Under the Enhanced Border Security Partnership, DHS may collect biometric data from international travellers, individuals suspected of criminal activity,

asylum seekers and irregular migrants, and applicants for visa or immigration benefits, for comparison against partner-provided datasets.

s. 47C(1)

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

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

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

//

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions!

Kind regards,

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

A/g Assistant Director | Americas Strategy & Engagement

Global and Multilateral Branch | Strategic Policy Division

Executive Group

Department of Home Affairs

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

~~PROTECTED~~



OFFICIAL

AU-US February Bilateral Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 24 February 2026

Time: 8:00 am – 9:00 am AEST

Attendees:

Australia (AU)

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

United States of America (US)

s. 47F(1)

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome and update on action items from last meeting

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone with an acknowledgement this was the first meeting held for some months.

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

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OFFICIAL

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

s. 22(1)(a)

confirmed that the Department of Foreign Affairs is s. 33(a)(iii) is responsible for reciprocal arrangements around the Electronic Travel Authority. However, there are requirements or responsibilities under the Visa Waiver Program which line agencies will play a role. On the Enhanced Border Security Partnership specifically several line agencies as well as State and Territory agencies would have a role. s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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

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

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under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [Americas Engagement](#)
Subject: FW: US Visa Waiver Program [SEC=~~PROTECTED~~]
Date: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 3:51:37 PM

~~PROTECTED~~

FYI

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
 A/g Assistant Secretary, Global and Multilateral Branch
 Strategic Policy Division
 Department of Home Affairs
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au) | s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@asnet.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@asnet.gov.au)
M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

~~PROTECTED~~

From: Hamish HANSFORD s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>
Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 3:32 PM
To: Elly Lawson (DFAT) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>
Cc: James ROBINSON <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)>; Head of National Security Office
 s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>
Subject: US Visa Waiver Program [SEC=~~PROTECTED~~]

~~PROTECTED~~

Hi Elly,

As discussed this morning, I think it would be timely to work closely with DFAT to rapidly progress Australia's position in relation to the United States Visa Waiver Program (VWP).

Given DFAT's role in leading Australia's bilateral relationship with the United States, s. 47C(1) , DFAT's support on how we take this forward will be critical. s. 47C(1), s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

S. 47C(1)

s. 47C(1)

Below is some detail on the history to the issue and the issues at play:

Key issues

1. Australia's compliance with the Visa Waiver Program

In 2022, the United States advised Australia of its intention to establish an Enhanced Border Security Partnership with VWP partners. s. 33(a)(iii)

s. 33(a)(iii)

As part of the Enhanced Border Security Partnership, s. 33(a)(iii)

s. 33(a)(iii)

s. 33(a)(iii). The United States has set a deadline of 31 December 2026 s. 33(a)(iii)

s. 33(a)(iii)

s. 33(a)(iii)

s. 33(a)(iii) Approximately 950,000

Australians travel to the United States each year under the VWP.

s. 33(a)(iii)

s. 33(a)(iii)

2. Visa Waiver Program requirements

s. 33(a)(iii)

Under the Enhanced Border Security Partnership, DHS may collect biometric data from international travellers, individuals suspected of criminal activity, asylum seekers and irregular migrants, and applicants for visa or immigration benefits, for comparison against partner-provided datasets.

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

5. Increasing visibility and scrutiny

s. 33(a)(iii)

s. 33(a)(iii)

. In 2026, Home Affairs has received a steady increase in media enquiries, FOI requests, Senate Estimates questions and ministerial correspondence relating to the VWP and biometric data sharing with the US.

s. 33(a)(iii)

Keen to meet when you are back.

Hamish

Hamish Hansford

Head of National Security

Department of Home Affairs

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

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

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

PROTECTED



Attachment A – Background on the Visa Waiver Program

The Department of Homeland Security introduced Enhanced Border Security Partnership in 2022 to improve cross-border identity resolution and threat assessment, making compliance a condition of Visa Waiver Program participation. The Enhanced Border Security Partnership requires automated comparison of biometric data and the sharing of criminal history data for immigration, border, and public safety screening purposes. s. 33(a)(iii)
s. 33(a)(iii)

Enhanced Border Security Partnership vs Preventing and Combatting Serious Crime

The EBSP (Enhanced Border Security Partnership) s. 33(a)(iii)
s. 33(a)(iii)

EBSP scope: VWP partners would allow DHS to routinely screen against the biometric records of the VWP partner the biometrics of:

- travellers to the US who may have a nexus to the VWP partner, including its citizens and nationals;
- applicants for immigration benefits or humanitarian protection in the US; and
- individuals encountered by DHS law enforcement in a border and immigration context in the US.

s. 33(a)(iii)

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S. 33(a)(iii)

S. 33(a)(iii)

S. 33(a)(iii)

From: S. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: S. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: [Americas Engagement](#); [Christopher Gower \(DFAT\)](#)
Subject: EBSF information for public sharing [SEC=~~PROTECTED~~]
Date: Saturday, 7 February 2026 1:05:44 AM

~~PROTECTED~~

Hey ladies,

S. 22(1)(a)(ii) mentioned on the Desk call Monday night that you were limited with what could be shared in the EBSF media response due to DHS' documentation not being for public dissemination. In case you hadn't seen these already, there are some public documents available which may assist - [DHS/ALL/PIA-095 International Biometric Information Sharing Program \(IBIS\) | Homeland Security](#)

S. 33(a)(iii)

s. 33(a)(iii)

Hope all of that is useful, and please reach out if you need anything else.

s. 22(1)(a)(i)

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

Counsellor | Department of Home Affairs
Embassy of Australia | Washington, DC, USA

Ts. 22(1)(a)(ii) | Cs. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Christopher Gower
To: s. 47F(1) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Follow Up [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 6 February 2026 5:35:19 AM

OFFICIAL

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

CG

Chris Gower

Minister Counsellor (Home Affairs)
 Regional Director | Americas
 Embassy of Australia
 T s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | C s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 47F(1)
Sent: Thursday, 5 February 2026 11:13 AM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Christopher Gower
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Follow Up [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender.

Oops – my mistake. Here it is: [DHS/ALL/PIA-095 International Biometric Information Sharing Program \(IBIS\) | Homeland Security](#)

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 11:11 AM
To: s. 47F(1)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Follow Up [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of DHS. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your component SOC with questions or concerns.

OFFICIAL

Thanks s. 47F(1), it was great to see you yesterday as well, and I appreciate the POCs below.

Can you please resend the link to the Privacy Impact Assessment? I couldn't see it in the email below.

Cheers,

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

From: s. 47F(1) <[s.47F\(1\)@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:s.47F(1)@hq.dhs.gov)>
Sent: Thursday, 5 February 2026 10:22 AM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Follow Up

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you

recognise the sender.

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

It was great catching up with you yesterday, thanks for the invite and good conversation. I mentioned our Privacy Impact Assessment potentially being a good source of language for describing what EBSF is and isn't, so I am providing a link to that here.

s. 33(a)(iii)

All the best,

s. 47F(1)

s. 47F(1)

Director, Global Border and Travel Security Section

Office of Strategy, Policy and Plans | Office of International Affairs

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

(M) s. 47F(1)

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Strategic Policy Division Support
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii); Global and Multilateral Support; Americas Engagement; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: ACIC meeting request on VWP [SEC=~~PROTECTED~~]
Date: Wednesday, 21 January 2026 1:20:15 PM

~~PROTECTED~~

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

Thanks

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

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

A/g Director | Americas Strategy & Engagement
 Global and Multilateral Branch | Strategic Policy Division
 Executive Group
 Department of Home Affairs

M: 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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-

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)
Sent: Thursday, 15 January 2026 9:35 PM
To: James ROBINSON s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au); Christopher Gower (DFAT) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)
Cc: Strategic Policy Division Support <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; Americas Engagement

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Global and Multilateral Support

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

Subject: Meeting with US Embassy - 14 January 2026 [SEC=PROTECTED]

~~PROTECTED~~

Hi all

s. 33(a)(iii)

S. 33(a)(iii)

s. 33(a)(iii)

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

s. 33(a)(iii)

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

Thanks,

s. 22(1)(a)

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

A/g AS Global and Multilateral Branch

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Strategic Policy Division
Department of Home Affairs

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

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

~~PROTECTED~~

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

Sent: Monday, 5 January 2026 4:06 PM

To: James ROBINSON s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>

Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)>; Strategic Policy Division Support
s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; Americas Engagement

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; Global and Multilateral Support

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

Subject: US Embassy request to meet next week [SEC=~~PROTECTED~~]

~~PROTECTED~~

Hi James,

The US Embassy has requested a meeting next Wednesday, 14 January, to discuss the US Visa Waiver Program (VWP) and Australia's current partial non-compliance. I will attend alongside A/g Director s. 22(1)(a)(ii) and a representative from DFAT.

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

On the VWP, Chris Gower met with DHS in late December regarding the program and the Enhanced Border Security Partnership (EBSP). s. 33(a)(iii)

s. 33(a)(iii)

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

Please let me know if you would like to discuss further.

Thanks,

s. 22(1)(a)

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

A/g Assistant Secretary, Global and Multilateral Branch

Strategic Policy Division

Department of Home Affairs

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

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

~~PROTECTED~~

s. 42(1)

S. 42(1)

S. 42(1)

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S. 42(1)

S. 42(1)

S. 42(1)



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

US Visa Waiver Program - Australia's partial compliance

Overview

s. 33(a)(iii)

Background and Context

Visa Waiver Program and the Preventing and Combating Serious Crime and Enhanced Border Security Partnership

The Department of Homeland Security introduced Enhanced Border Security Partnership in 2022 to improve cross-border identity resolution and threat assessment, making compliance a condition of Visa Waiver Program participation. The Enhanced Border Security Partnership requires automated comparison of biometric data and the sharing of criminal history data for immigration, border, and public safety screening purposes. s. 33(a)(iii)

s. 33(a)(iii)

Status

s. 33(b)

The Department of Homeland Security has set 31 Dec 2026 as the compliance date to maintain Visa Waiver Program access.

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S. 33(a)(iii)

S. 33(a)(iii)

S. 33(a)(iii)

s. 33(a)(iii)

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S. 47C(1)

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

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

S. 33(b)

S. 47C(1)

Attachment X: Additional background information

s. 33(a)(iii)

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

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From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: [Global and Multilateral Support; Americas Engagement](#); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: EBSP[SEC=PROTECTED]
Date: Tuesday, 23 December 2025 10:49:06 PM
Attachments:

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

~~PROTECTED~~

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

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

S. 42(1)

S. 42(1)

S. 47C(1)

EBSP vs PCSC

The EBSP (Enhanced Border Security Partnership) and PCSC (Preventing and Combatting Serious Crimes agreements) are two different arrangements, however both involve biometric data sharing. Information sharing in context of the EBSP differs however from the PCSC.

EBSP scope: VWP partners would allow DHS to routinely screen against the biometric records of the VWP partner the biometrics of:

- travellers to the US who may have a nexus to the VWP partner, including its citizens and nationals;
- applicants for immigration benefits or humanitarian protection in the US; and
- individuals encountered by DHS law enforcement in a border and immigration context in the US.

s. 33(a)(iii)

PCSC scope: Establish a basis for access to biometric and other personal data held by the parties for the purposes of preventing, detecting, and investigating serious crimes. Information sharing under PCSC agreements may occur under the terms of the bilateral agreement for a criminal justice purpose.

s. 47C(1)

S. 47C(1)

Thanks

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

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

A/g Director | Americas Strategy & Engagement
Global and Multilateral Branch | Strategic Policy Division
Executive Group
Department of Home Affairs

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

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under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*

Sent: Tuesday, 23 December 2025 8:05 AM

To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>

Cc: Global and Multilateral Support s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Americas Engagement s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>

Subject: RE: EBSPP[SEC=PROTECTED]

PROTECTED

s. 33(a)(iii)

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

Thank you,

s. 22(1)(a)

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

A/g Assistant Secretary, Global and Multilateral Branch

Strategic Policy Division

Department of Home Affairs

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

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

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From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>

Sent: Monday, 22 December 2025 6:54 PM

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

Cc: Global and Multilateral Support s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Americas Engagement <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>

Subject: RE: EBSPP[SEC=PROTECTED]

PROTECTED

Hi J s. 22(1)(a)

With thanks to s. 22(1)(a)(ii) for tracking, I have just sent you further information on this meeting to you on mid.

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

Thanks

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

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

A/g Director | Americas Strategy & Engagement
Global and Multilateral Branch | Strategic Policy Division
Executive Group
Department of Home Affairs

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

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

~~PROTECTED~~

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

Sent: Sunday, 21 December 2025 7:58 AM

To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)>

Cc: Global and Multilateral Support s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>

Subject: Fwd: EBSP[SEC=PROTECTED]

~~PROTECTED~~

FYI - let's chat early on Monday.

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

A/g Assistant Secretary Global and Multilateral Branch
Strategic Policy Division
Department of Home Affairs

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

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

~~PROTECTED~~

From: "Christopher Gower" <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>

Date: Saturday, 20 December 2025 at 9:19:08 am

To: "James ROBINSON" s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>, s. 22(1)(a)(ii) "s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>

Cc: "s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DFAT)" s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>

Subject: EBSF [SEC=PROTECTED]

~~PROTECTED~~

James, s. 22(1)(a)(i)

S. 47C(1)

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s. 47C(1)

In January, DHS are eager to begin more formal discussions with us about our progress and begin to work through issues, technical solutions etc.

We will send a more fulsome cable capturing this engagement and some of the background on EBSF to give it greater visibility in the system, s. 33(a)(iii) s. 33(a)(iii).

CG

Chris Gower

Minister Counsellor (Home Affairs)

Regional Director | Americas

Embassy of Australia

T s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | C s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

S. 33(a)(iii)

S. 33(a)(iii)

S. 33(a)(iii)

S. 33(a)(iii)

S. 33(a)(iii)

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: [Christopher Gower](#)
Subject: Ebsp [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Saturday, 20 December 2025 7:33:00 AM
Attachments: s. 33(a)(iii)

OFFICIAL

Hey Chris,

Full notes from Ebsp meeting are attached if you want to draw on them for email to James and s. 22(1)(a)(ii). Also, please let me know if I've missed anything. s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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

I'll weave this into the next version of the cable next week.

Happy holidays,

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

Counsellor | Department of Home Affairs
Embassy of Australia | Washington, DC, USA
T s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | C s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

S. 33(a)(iii)

S. 33(a)(iii)

S. 33(a)(iii)

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Sarah MARSHALL; s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii); Americas Engagement; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: EBSP summary [SEC=PROTECTED]
Date: Friday, 10 October 2025 6:06:03 PM
Attachments: image001.jpg

PROTECTED

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

Thanks for the comprehensive background.

s. 33(a)(iii)

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

Kind regards,

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

A/g Director | Americas Strategy & Engagement
 Global and Multilateral Branch | Strategic Policy Division
 Executive 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

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From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au
Sent: Friday, 10 October 2025 4:32 PM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: Americas Engagement s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>
Subject: RE: Meeting notes with US Consular's s. 22(1)(a)(ii), s. 47F(1) [SEC=PROTECTED]

~~PROTECTED~~

Thanks for the below readout s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 47C(1)

Our understanding is DFAT is the lead on the VWP.

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

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

s. 33(a)(i)

s. 47C(1)

Cheers,

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

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

Director Multilaterals, Americas & Europe
Immigration International Cooperation Branch
Offshore Programs & International Cooperation Division
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)

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

~~PROTECTED~~

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>
Sent: Friday, 10 October 2025 10:35 AM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: Americas Engagement s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>
Subject: FW: Meeting notes with US Consular's s. 47F(1) [SEC=PROTECTED]

~~PROTECTED~~

Hey [REDACTED]

Sharing the below read out of the catch up with DFAT and the US Consulate.

Happy to chat if you have any questions

[REDACTED]

Kind Regards,

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

A/g Assistant Director | Americas Section
 Global & Multilateral Branch
 Strategic Policy Division | Executive Group
 Department of Home Affairs
 Ph: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

~~PROTECTED~~

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:[REDACTED]@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)>
Sent: Thursday, 9 October 2025 5:32 PM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:[REDACTED]@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:[REDACTED]@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)>; Americas Engagement
s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@homeaffairs.gov.au)>
Subject: Meeting notes with US Consular's s. 47F(1) [REDACTED] [SEC=PROTECTED]

PROTECTED

Hi all,

Please find below notes from the meeting between the America's Section, US Consular's s. 47F(1) [REDACTED] (Country Consular Coordinator) and DFAT representatives.

s. 33(a)(iii)

s. 33(a)(iii)

Kind Regards,

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

A/g Assistant Director | Americas Section | Global & Multilateral Branch | Strategic Policy Division
Department of Home Affairs

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

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Record of Conversation

Conversation between: Stephanie Foster, Secretary, Department of Home Affairs

And: Tory Edgar, Deputy Secretary, Department of Homeland Security

On: 4 September 2025

At: Microsoft Teams

Others present: ***Australia***
 Brendan Dowling, Deputy Secretary Critical Infrastructure and Protective Security
 Chris Gower, Regional Director Americas
 Sarah Marshall, Acting First Assistant Secretary Strategic Policy Division (note taker)

United States
 Troy Edgar, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security
 s. 47F(1), Head of International Division
 s. 47F(1), Senior Director for International Affairs

Main subjects: Enhanced Border Security Partnership, s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
 s. 22(1)(a)(ii), biometric data for Visa Waiver Program, s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
 s. 22(1)(a)(ii).

Record of Conversation

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

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

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

In this

context, Secretary Foster mentioned being able to exchange biometric data (referring to the US' Enhanced Border Security Partnership (ESBP) s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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

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

Prepared by: Sarah Marshall, Acting First Assistant Secretary Strategic Policy

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

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From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: biometric and data sharing notes - after chat with s. 22(1)(a) + s. 22(1)(a)(ii) - VWP [SEC=PROTECTED]
Date: Thursday, 27 February 2025 5:20:39 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image004.emz](#)

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 February 2025 13:19:40 (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: Chris Gower
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: biometric and data sharing notes - after chat with s. 22(1)(a)(ii) + s. 22(1)(a)(ii) - VWP [SEC=PROTECTED]

s. 33(a)(i)



- VWP (Visa Waiver Program): DHS manages the program. From the DHS website:
 - *Participation in the VWP requires countries to increase counterterrorism, law enforcement, and immigration enforcement cooperation with the United States. This cooperation – often coupled with countries' significant upgrades to their own capacities, systems, and processes to meet program requirements – results in greatly enhanced security for both the United States and the VWP participating country.*
 - *The eligibility requirements for a country's designation in the VWP are defined in Section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as amended by the Secure Travel and Counterterrorism Partnership Act of 2007 and the **Visa Waiver Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015**. Pursuant to existing statute, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in*

consultation with the Secretary of State, may designate into the VWP a country that meets, among others, the following requirements:

- Enters into an agreement with the United States to **share terrorism and serious criminal information**;
- Undergoes a DHS-led evaluation of the effects of the country's VWP designation on the security, law enforcement, and immigration enforcement interests of the United States;

In **2017**, the Secretary of Homeland Security announced **additional VWP enhancements**, including:

- Implementation of existing information sharing arrangements by systematically screening travelers crossing their respective borders against U.S. counterterrorism information;
- In **2022**, the Secretary of Homeland Security announced an **information sharing requirement for all current and aspiring VWP countries to improve enforcement of statutory information sharing requirements**.

Through the Enhanced Border Security Partnership (EBSP), DHS seeks to **routinely screen the biometrics** of the following groups against the biometric records of the VWP partner:

- Travelers to the United States who have a nexus to the VWP partner, including its **citizens and nationals**;
- As you can tell from above, the US has been gradually asking partners for more work on these things to improve over time. Not just us but also us.

• s. 33(a)(iii)

s. 47C(1)

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

s. 47C(1)

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

Counsellor | Home Affairs

Embassy of Australia

Ts. 22(1)(a)(ii) | Cs. 22(1)(a)(ii)

1601 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington DC 20036-2273

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