



**Raphaelswerk e.V.** is a specialist organisation within the German Caritas Association. We give expert advice on: **emigration, working abroad, bi-national partnerships and families, returning to one's home country and resettlement.**

Our counselling is confidential and unbiased to the result. We are bound by discretion and provide advice irrespective of nationality, religious affiliation and legal status.

This information sheet offers initial guidance. It does not offer a substitute to personal counselling. **Our counselling services can provide you with detailed information, advice and support with application procedures.**

### **What is resettlement?**

The term resettlement generally refers to when refugees, who are outside of their home country without a permanent right to remain, are accepted under the refugee programme of another country. Refugees can also immigrate to third countries through job-related and family-related immigration programmes – as long as they meet the relevant criteria.

Below, we will outline three possibilities for immigration to Australia:

- 1. The Australian refugee programme**
- 2. Family-related immigration**
- 3. Immigration of skilled migrants**

Visa applications must be personally submitted to the relevant Australian authority. A lawful decision on a visa application can be made only by the Australian immigration authority.

For refugees in Germany or other western European countries, the chances of resettlement within Australia's refugee programme are extremely slim.

Refugees can also immigrate to Australia under family-related and skilled migration programmes. Specific requirements need to be met for all resettlement and immigration applications. The most important criteria are described in the following sections.

### **1. The Australian Refugee Programme**

Refugees who are living in Germany are unable to apply under the Australian refugee programme. The sole exceptions apply to those whose immediate family members – i.e. their spouse/partner, parents or dependent children – are already living in Australia as recognized refugees (*holder of a permanent humanitarian or a permanent protection visa*).



## **2. Family-Related Immigration**

Family-related immigration refers to immigration applications that are submitted on the basis **of having close family members already living in Australia.**

The possibility of family-related immigration to Australia exists for the following family members:

- Fiancée/fiancé, spouse or partner in a marriage-like relationship (this includes same-sex relationships)
- Underage or financially dependent own children, adopted children or related orphaned children
- Parents (only under certain conditions)
- Relatives of persons in need of care (only under certain conditions)

Immigration to Australia remains possible for aged, financially independent relatives or persons whose only remaining relatives are in Australia.

- The sponsoring relative must hold either permanent residence or Australian citizenship
- The sponsoring relative must apply to sponsor his/her relative.

### **What do I need to do if I wish to join my relatives in Australia?**

You need to submit your relatives' sponsorship together with the application for family reunification to the responsible Australian processing authority.

## **3. Immigration of skilled migrants**

### **What is a skilled migrant?**

In Australia, there has been a demand for skilled migrants in various sectors for years now. The Australian Government regularly publishes occupation lists - the Medium and Long-Term Strategic Skills List (MLTSSL) and the Short-Term Skilled Occupations List (STSOL). If you practice one of the professions on one of these lists and meet the basic requirements and several other criteria, you can submit an *Expression of Interest* (EOI) for an immigration application as a skilled migrant under the pre-selection procedure called *SkillSelect*.

### **What basic criteria are there?**

1. You are under 45 years of age. (A few exceptions exist for certain professions.)
2. You practice an in-demand profession - refer to occupation lists MLTSSL and STSOL.
3. Your professional training and your professional experience have been positively assessed by the Australian authority responsible for skills recognition.
4. You have worked in your profession in recent years.
5. You can demonstrate very good English skills (IELTS-Test).

Depending on the visa category, further criteria need to be met.



### **Work permits / working temporarily**

#### **What is a work permit?**

A work permit allows a temporary stay in Australia together with a pre-determined employment position with a particular employer. Due to the temporary nature of this permit, refugees who do not have a right to remain in Germany will not generally be granted a work permit.

### **Information and Counselling**

#### **Where can I seek advice?**

The Raphaelswerk emigrant and refugee counselling services are competent contact persons for all topics to do with: resettlement, emigration, working abroad, returning to one's home country, as well as bi-national partnerships and families. You can find out the addresses of our counselling services by phoning +49 40 248442-0 or online at: [www.Raphaelswerk.de](http://www.Raphaelswerk.de)

The Australian immigration authority, the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP), provides information about the various immigration and visa regulations on its website: [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au)