

FREE GUIDE FOR VISA HOLDERS

10 questions to ask any migration agent before you pay them

Choosing badly costs more than money — it costs time your visa clock does not give back. These are the questions that separate an agent who will be straight with you from one who will not. Ask them of us too.

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- 01 Are you a Registered Migration Agent, and what is your MARN?**
Only registered agents (or Australian legal practitioners) can lawfully give immigration assistance. A MARN can be checked on the public register in under a minute. Anyone who hesitates here is the answer.
 - 02 Have you checked my occupation against labour agreements and DAMAs — not just the standard list?**
This is the single question most people never ask. The standard skilled list is one door. Labour agreements and regional DAMAs run on separate rules with their own concessions. A no based only on the standard list is half an answer.
 - 03 What is your honest read on my chances — and what would make you tell me not to proceed?**
A good agent can describe the circumstances in which they would turn your work away. If every pathway sounds promising and nothing is ruled out, you are being sold to, not advised.
 - 04 What exactly does your fee cover, and what is billed separately?**
Government application charges, skills assessments, English tests and police checks are usually separate and largely non-refundable. Get the full picture before you commit, in writing.
 - 05 What happens to my money if the application is refused?**
Nobody can guarantee an outcome — decisions rest with the Department of Home Affairs. What an agent can tell you clearly is their refund and re-application policy. Ask for it in writing.
 - 06 Who will actually be doing the work on my file?**
Sometimes you meet a senior agent and your file is handled by someone else. That is not automatically a problem, but you should know who is responsible and who you can contact.

- 07 **How will you keep me updated, and how fast do you reply?**
Migration matters run for months. Silence is the most common complaint people have about their agent. Agree the rhythm at the start, not when you are anxious.
- 08 **What are the risks in my case, specifically?**
Every case has some. Prior refusals, gaps in evidence, timing, an employer's history. An agent who names your risks up front is one who has actually read your situation.
- 09 **If my visa is close to expiring, what protects my status while this runs?**
Timing is where real damage happens. You want to hear a clear explanation of the sequence, and what happens if a step takes longer than expected.
- 10 **Can you put the advice in writing?**
Verbal reassurance is easy to give and impossible to hold anyone to. A written summary of the pathway and next steps is normal, reasonable, and protects you both.

A pattern worth noticing: the questions above are uncomfortable for an agent who over-promises, and completely routine for one who does not.

Not sure where you stand? Email your situation to info@vedavisa.com.au for an honest, no-obligation reply on which pathways may be open to you — including a straight no where something is not realistic. English, Telugu or Hindi.

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