























s 33(a)(iii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)





s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 February 2026 9:02 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Request for Australia Visa Waiver Program Coordinator  
[SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**OFFICIAL**

Good morning team

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii)



s 33(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Assistant Director | US Global Issues Section  
US Branch | Geostrategy and Partnerships Division  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

















s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 12 February 2026 4:58 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: For consultation by COB today: Media Enquiry on the Visa Waiver Program / Enhanced Border Security Partnership [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

Thanks<sup>s</sup><sub>22(1)(a)(ii)</sub> really appreciate your swift response!

Thanks  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

A/g Director | Americas Strategy & Engagement  
 Global and Multilateral Branch | Strategic Policy Division  
 Executive Group  
 Department of Home Affairs  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**


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**Sent:** Thursday, 12 February 2026 4:52 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Dougal McInnes (DFAT) <Dougal.McInnes@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>  
**Subject:** RE: For consultation by COB today: Media Enquiry on the Visa Waiver Program / Enhanced Border Security Partnership [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
 HI

Many thanks for sharing – confirming no redlines from a US desk perspective.

Warm regards  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

Assistant Director | US Global Issues Section  
 US Branch | Geostrategy and Partnerships Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 12 February 2026 4:39 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Dougal McInnes <Dougal.McInnes@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au> s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>  
**Subject:** For consultation by COB today: Media Enquiry on the Visa Waiver Program / Enhanced Border Security Partnership [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

## OFFICIAL: Sensitive

s  
 Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii) and team  
 (a)(ii)

As flagged over the phone, please see attached media enquiry and our draft response on the Visa Waiver Program / Enhanced Border Security Partnership.

Grateful for your consideration as soon as possible, apologies for the tight turnaround. We're aiming to progress the response to our media team by COB today to meet the journalist's deadline.

Very happy to discuss.

Thanks  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

A/g Director | Americas Strategy & Engagement  
 Global and Multilateral Branch | Strategic Policy Division  
 Executive Group  
 Department of Home Affairs  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 12 February 2026 4:17 PM  
**To:** Media; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** Dougal McInnes  
**Subject:** RE: \*\*Media Enquiry for Action\*\* s 11C(1) - US Enhanced Border Security Partnership [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Many thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii) for your time on the phone just now.

As discussed, this one is best placed for Home Affairs as the policy leads. It would be great to get visibility of the response if possible.

Best  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

Assistant Director | US Global Issues Section  
US Branch | Geostrategy and Partnerships Division  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

**From:** Media <media@dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 12 February 2026 4:10 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au  
**Cc:** Dougal McInnes <Dougal.McInnes@dfat.gov.au>; Media <media@dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** \*\*Media Enquiry for Action\*\* s 11C(1) US Enhanced Border Security Partnership [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Good afternoon all,

We've received an enquiry from s 11C(1) regarding a proposed US enhanced border security partnership.

MLS would be grateful for a draft **SES-cleared** response to this enquiry by **8.30am Friday 13/2**. Please let us know if you won't be able to meet this deadline.

We would also appreciate **confirmation of receipt** of this request.

As the lead line area, you should consult relevant areas/Agencies as appropriate before returning the final draft response to MLS. If you are not the lead line area, grateful if you could advise MLS as soon as possible.

Please find a response template below.

//

s 47E(d)

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

Media Liaison Section  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

**From:** s 11C(1)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2026 3:55 PM  
**To:** Media <media@dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Enhanced Border Security Partnership

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I'm preparing an article on the US request in 2022 to countries that are part of the Visa Waiver Program to develop an Enhanced Border Security Partnership with the United States for access to domestically held identity information including biometric information.

Can the department advise whether it is, or has been, engaged in discussions with the United States government about an Enhanced Border Security Partnership with the United States for access to Australian-held identity data, or consulted with other Commonwealth departments in relation to such discussions?

A response by 10am tomorrow Friday 13th February would be appreciated.

s 11C(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 12 November 2025 10:08 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au; zz [External]  
 americas.engagement@homeaffairs.gov.au; DM GPD-UGS  
**Subject:** RE: SE BPB VWP questions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

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

Thanks for another chance to feed in – Lucas is comfortable with the below. Nil further input.

Good luck with estimates!

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) \_\_\_\_\_  
 US Global Issues Section (UGS)  
 US Branch (USB) | Geostrategy & Partnerships Division (GPD)  
 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 11 November 2025 12:32 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: SE BPB VWP questions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii) for sending through those points so quickly yesterday!

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Americas Strategy & Engagement  
 Global and Multilateral Branch | Strategic Policy Division  
 Executive Group  
 Department of Home Affairs  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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

## OFFICIAL

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
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**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: SE BPB VWP questions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

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

Thanks for your time on the phone this morning s 47C(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

I'd suggest the following addition to your points below:

*[if asked] About access to the Visa Waiver program (VWP) and Enhanced Border Security Program (EBSP)?*  
s 47C(1)

Relevant points from our most recent estimates brief, in case useful:

**What is the Australian Government doing to advocate for Australian dual citizens or those who have travelled to certain countries being unable to obtain an Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA)?**

- Australia is part of a group of countries able to benefit from the US Visa Waiver Program, saving time and money for the majority of Australians who travel to the US.
- A minority of travellers are not eligible for an ESTA
  - eligibility is a matter for the US Government
  - does not mean these Australians are ineligible to travel to the United States, they can apply for a visa [generally requires an in-person interview and additional paperwork].

### Background

### ESTA Eligibility

Australia is a participating nation in the United States Visa Waiver Program. Under the US Visa Waiver Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015, travellers who have travelled to or been present in Iraq, North Korea, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia or Yemen at any time on or after 1 March 2011, and Cuba on or after 12 January 2021; and Australian dual nations of Cuba, Iraq, Syria, Iran, North Korea, or Sudan are not eligible for an ESTA and must instead apply for a visa to visit the United States.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Policy Officer | US Global Issues Section (UGS)  
 US Branch (USB) | Geostrategy & Partnerships Division (GPD)  
 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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

**Sent:** Monday, 10 November 2025 11:11 AM

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

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

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

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

**Subject:** SE BPB VWP questions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)

Hi (ii)

As discussed just now, Home Affairs is writing a BPB for the December Senate estimates. We have included wording on the VWP (below) in case it comes up and will be deferring to DFAT as the relevant agency to answer any questions on the topic. Please let me know if DFAT are okay with this wording.

s 47C(1)

Kind Regards,  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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

[@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:homeaffairs.gov.au)

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**Sent:** Tuesday, 10 February 2026 11:25 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Senate Estimates - Biometric Data Sharing - US DHS [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
 Thank you, for sharing the information so quickly.

s 33(a)(iii), s 47C(1)

Appreciate your assistance.

Kind Regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director | Passport Technology & Standards  
 Strategy & Modernisation Branch | Australian Passport Office  
 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Australian Passport Office Call Centre 131 232

[www.passports.gov.au](http://www.passports.gov.au)



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**Sent:** Tuesday, 10 February 2026 11:05 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @abf.gov.au  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au;  
 Specialist Identity Services Support <SD.SIS@homeaffairs.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Senate Estimates - Biometric Data Sharing - US DHS [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

Hi all,

At official level, this is the line that we have in our United States Implications back pocket brief attached. s 22(1)(a)(ii) is the lead on this brief.

**[If asked]** About Australia's participation in the Visa Waiver Program.

- The Australian Government does not comment on matters specific to United States (US) Government policy and we respect the sovereign jurisdiction of the US Government.
- Visa rules are a matter for the country that issues them.

For background only:

s 33(a)(iii)

Happy to chat if there are further questions.

s 22(1)(a)  
(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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

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

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 10 February 2026 10:53 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @abf.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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

**Subject:** RE: Senate Estimates - Biometric Data Sharing - US DHS [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

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

Thanks for getting in touch, we'll have a look at that part of estimates.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) in DFAT's US Global Issues Section asked about this recently (see attached).

s 22(1)(a)(ii) Global and Multilateral Branch is the Home Affairs lead, with us contributing.

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
A/g Senior Director Specialist Identity Services  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @abf.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 10 February 2026 10:47 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Senate Estimates - Biometric Data Sharing - US DHS [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

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

Is this something you are across and would be able to help s 22(1)(a)(ii) with?  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

## OFFICIAL

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 10 February 2026 10:45 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@abf.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@abf.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Senate Estimates - Biometric Data Sharing - US DHS [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

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

Hoping you can help me with the below request or at the very least push me in the right direction.

At the Legal & Constitutional Affairs Committee on Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> between 19:36 and 19:47, there were questions raised with the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner around Home Affairs implementing a biometric data sharing agreement with the US Department of Homeland Security through the enhanced border security partnership.

s 33(a)(iii)

Any info you can provide me would be great, if it's easier to have a Teams call let me know and I can set on up too.

Cheers,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Assistant Director | Passport Technology & Standards  
Strategy & Modernisation Branch | Australian Passport Office  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 February 2026 2:02 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: US B2 IDC - agenda item on visa issues

Many thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2026 2:00 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: US B2 IDC - agenda item on visa issues

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

We'd be happy to prep James to speak to this at the next IDC.

Thank you s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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:homeaffairs.gov.au) | s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**M:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 February 2026 12:50 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** US B2 IDC - agenda item on visa issues

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

Hope you're well. We thought it would be timely for there to be a discussion on visa issues, including the Enhanced Border Security Partnership at the next US Band 2 IDC (26 February) and intend to add this to the agenda. Would James Robinson from Home Affairs be able to speak to this?

Much appreciated, and please let me know if there are any issues.

Warm regards  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

Senior Policy Officer | US Strategy and Coordination  
US Branch | Geostrategy and Partnerships Division  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Action: Estimates - VWP and Migration Reporting [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** RE: SE BPB VWP questions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

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

Thanks for the below and appreciate the advice.

s 47C(1)

Thanks and happy to discuss.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**Sent:** Thursday, 8 January 2026 3:45 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) )  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Action: Estimates - VWP and Migration Reporting [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

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

On the VWP, I'm not sure referring questions to DFAT on that is right given Home Affairs leads on the compliance issues that questions would likely be focused on. If the question was about individuals' eligibility for ESTAs, given that is more of a consular issue, we could address that. But we don't have information on Australia's compliance with VWP requirements more broadly.

Many thanks,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Sent: Monday, 5 January 2026 12:31 PM

To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au); s 22(1)(a) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)

Cc: 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); s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)[@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)>**Subject:** Action: Estimates - VWP and Migration Reporting [SEC=OFFICIAL]**OFFICIAL**

Hi,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

I'm reaching out from the Americas Section at Home Affairs. We would be most grateful if you could share your next round of Estimates briefing on:

- s 22(1)(a)(ii)
- US VWP
- VWP and US social media requirements

For the VWP issue, we currently have:

s 47C(1)

We would be most grateful if we could hear back from you by **midday Thursday 8 January 2026**.

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director A/g | Americas Strategy & Engagement  
Global and Multilateral Branch | Strategic Policy Division  
Executive Group  
Department of Home Affairs  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 12 November 2025 10:08 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** 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)  
**Subject:** RE: SE BPB VWP questions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

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

Thanks for another chance to feed in (ii) s 22(1)(a) s comfortable with the below. Nil further input.

Good luck with estimates!

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

Policy Officer | US Global Issues Section (UGS)  
US Branch (USB) | Geostrategy & Partnerships Division (GPD)  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**OFFICIAL**

---

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 10 November 2025 11:55 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: SE BPB VWP questions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

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

Thanks for your time on the phone this morning – useful to discuss the Home Affairs equities for the Visa Waiver Program s 47C(1)

As mentioned, s 22(1)(a)(ii) has been in a meeting this morning, so I have not had an opportunity to run anything by him.

I'd suggest the following addition to your points below:

s 47C(1)

Relevant points from our most recent estimates brief, in case useful:

**What is the Australian Government doing to advocate for Australian dual citizens or those who have travelled to certain countries being unable to obtain an Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA)?**

- Australia is part of a group of countries able to benefit from the US Visa Waiver Program, saving time and money for the majority of Australians who travel to the US.
- A minority of travellers are not eligible for an ESTA
  - eligibility is a matter for the US Government
  - does not mean these Australians are ineligible to travel to the United States, they can apply for a visa [*generally requires an in-person interview and additional paperwork*].

**Background****ESTA Eligibility**

Australia is a participating nation in the United States Visa Waiver Program. Under the US Visa Waiver Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015, travellers who have travelled to or been present in Iraq, North Korea, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia or Yemen at any time on or after 1 March 2011, and Cuba on or after 12 January 2021; and Australian dual nations of Cuba, Iraq, Syria, Iran, North Korea, or Sudan are not eligible for an ESTA and must instead apply for a visa to visit the United States.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Policy Officer | US Global Issues Section (UGS)  
 US Branch (USB) | Geostrategy & Partnerships Division (GPD)  
 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>  
**Sent:** Monday, 10 November 2025 11:11 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) t@homeaffairs.gov.au  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; zz  
 [s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>  
**Subject:** SE BPB VWP questions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

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

s 47C(1)

s 47C(1)

Kind Regards,  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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

@homeaffairs.gov.au

**OFFICIAL**

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Senate Estimates February 2026

**AUSTRALIA-US BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Senate Estimates February 2026

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Senate Estimates February 2026

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

*If asked: Enhanced Border Security Partnership*

- Australia is seeking further information regarding the US' requirements.
- [Refer further questions to the Department of Home Affairs]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Senate Estimates February 2026

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Senate Estimates February 2026

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Senate Estimates February 2026

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Senate Estimates February 2026

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Senate Estimates February 2026

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

Senate Estimates February 2026

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

## Background

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

In February 2022, the Department of Homeland Security introduced a requirement for Visa Waiver Program countries to establish an Enhanced Border Security Partnership with the United States, which would allow DHS to screen against the biometric records of the Visa Waiver Program country (including immigration and criminal biometric data). Countries have been asked to comply with the requirements of the EBSP by 31 December 2026. s 33(a)(iii)

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Senate Estimates February 2026

s 33(a)(iii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Contact officer Dougal McInnes s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Date submitted: 11/02/2026

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Senate Estimates February 2026

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

Senate Estimates February 2026

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Senate Estimates February 2026

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Senate Estimates February 2026

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 February 2026 8:25 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Ebsp background

Note below background, including possible upcoming ask.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) let's discuss when you are back.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

Director | US Strategy and Coordination Section  
 US Branch | Geostrategy & Partnerships Division  
 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

**From:** "Dougal McInnes" <Dougal.McInnes@dfat.gov.au>  
**Date:** Friday, 13 February 2026 at 9:21:29 am  
**To:** "Celeste Powell" <Celeste.Powell@dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au, "Damien Dunn" <Damien.Dunn@dfat.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au  
**Subject:** RE: Ebsp background ]

great thanks Celeste. Yep have been following given from media enquiries.  
 We will continue to engage DHA here as we get towards the 31 dec deadline.

s 33(a)(iii)  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

**From:** Celeste Powell <Celeste.Powell@dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 13 February 2026 7:58 AM  
**To:** Dougal McInnes <Dougal.McInnes@dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; Damien Dunn <Damien.Dunn@dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Ebsp background

Dougal

s 33(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(iii) says you guys are on top of it, but please let me know if you need anything further.

Celeste Powell

---

Minister-Counsellor Political  
Embassy of Australia  
Washington DC  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 12 February 2026 2:55 PM  
**To:** Celeste Powell <Celeste.Powell@dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** EBSP background

Hi Celeste,

As discussed, here's background on EBSP to help you prime your system:

s 33(a)(iii)

### **EBSP and VWP**

The EBSP requires partners to ensure that DHS can screen the biometric records of:

- Travellers to the US who are Australian citizens or have a nexus with Australia;
- Applicants for US benefits or protection; and
- Individuals encountered in a border and immigration context in the US.

s 33(a)(iii)

The [VWP](#) allows Australians to travel to the US for business or tourism for up to 90 days, without obtaining a visa but having a valid Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA). [42 countries](#), including Australia, are members of the VWP.

Approximately [1 million Australians get an ETSA](#) each year, [s 33\(a\)\(iii\)](#)

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I'm advised that your US branch in CBR is all on top of the issue – they've been liaising with our 'VWP coordinator', [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) and had information prepared in case the FM got asked during Question Time.

Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any follow-up questions.

[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

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Counsellor | Department of Home Affairs  
Embassy of Australia | Washington, DC, USA  
[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

04 February 2026

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

# UNITED STATES

04 February 2026

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

04 February 2026

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

### **Enhanced Border Security Partnership**

- The Australian Government has not made any commitments regarding an Enhanced Border Security Partnership with the US.
- This requirement was introduced by the United States in 2022 for Visa Waiver Program countries.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Prepared By:**

Name: s 22(1)(a)  
Branch: US Branch  
Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Cleared By:**

Name: Dougal McInnes  
Position: Assistant Secretary  
Branch/Division: SCG | GPD | USB - US Branch  
Phone: s 22(1)

04 February 2026

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

04 February 2026

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

04 February 2026

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Background**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**US visas**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

In February 2022, the Department of Homeland Security introduced a requirement for Visa Waiver Program countries to establish an Enhanced Border Security Partnership with the United States, which would allow DHS to screen against the biometric records of the Visa Waiver Program country (including immigration and criminal biometric data). Countries have been asked to comply with the requirements of the EBSP by 31 December 2026. s 33(a)(iii)

Under President Trump's 'One Big Beautiful Bill' (signed 4 July 2025), travelers into the US not eligible for Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA waiver) will be charged a \$250 (AUD383) 'visa integrity fee'. Travelers may be eligible to recoup the full cost after legally exiting the US if they complied with their visa conditions. ESTA waiver fees will increase from \$21 (AUD32) to \$40 (AUD60). US Department of Homeland Security has authority to begin the new fees from 1 October 2025 but it is yet to be implemented.

**Prepared By:**

Name: s 22(1)  
Branch: US Branch  
Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Cleared By:**

Name: Dougal McInnes  
Position: Assistant Secretary  
Branch/Division: SCG | GPD | USB - US Branch  
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