



## Which of the Two Bridging Visas is in Effect?

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A bridging visa A or C is usually granted in relation to the lodgement of an onshore substantive visa such as 485 or 885 visa. These bridging visas will allow the visa holder to stay in Australia until a decision is made on the substantive visa application in relation to which they were issued. Unlike a bridging visa A, a bridging visa C does not provide work rights and it ceases if the visa holder goes overseas.

Here is a situation: Mary Jones, a bridging visa A holder (which was granted in relation to the lodgement of her 485 visa application), lodged a 886 visa application. She was granted a bridging visa C (in relation to her 886 visa application). She needs to continue to work. Which of the two bridging visas which have been granted in relation to concurrent onshore visa applications, is in effect: A or C?

1. Does her bridging visa C replace her bridging visa A ? *No, her bridging visa A is still in effect until a decision has been made on her 485 visa application. Her bridging visa C will take effect only after her bridging visa A ceases.*
2. If she needs to go overseas urgently to visit her grandparent who is very ill, can she apply for a bridging visa B? *Yes, because she is currently on bridging visa A.*
3. What will be her visa upon her return to Australia? *She will return on a bridging visa B with full work rights and will remain on bridging visa B until 28 days after the decision on her 485 visa, provided she returns to Australia before the specified date of return.*
4. Can she travel overseas again and return to Australia on the same bridging visa B? *Yes, if she travels and returns before the specified date for her to return to Australia on a bridging visa B, otherwise, she will need to apply for another bridging visa B, to travel overseas and return to Australia at a later date.*
5. What is the effect of her departure from Australia, on her bridging visa C? *When she leaves Australia, her bridging visa C will cease.*
6. Does she need to have her bridging visa C reinstated? *Yes, it is to her advantage to have it reinstated so that in case her 485 visa is refused, she can remain in Australia, until 28 days after her 886 visa is refused or until her 886 visa is granted, bearing in mind that she must be in Australia at the time of the 886 visa grant.*

7. Can she work while she is on a bridging visa C? *No, not until her “no work” condition is removed, by applying for a change of this visa condition with supporting evidence.*

*This information is of a general nature and should not be taken as authoritative legal advice for specific cases. Australia has a scheme that requires persons who give immigration assistance to be registered as migration agent.*

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