What is ABF?

Australian Border Force (ABF) are immigration officers. They look for people who are not following visa rules.



ABF are not police. They do not have the same powers as police.

If ABF come, use the traffic light cards:



Show the **red card** first. This says you do not want them to come in.

Show the **yellow card** if they say they have a warrant.

Show the **green card** if they come inside.

If they don't have a warrant

You can say no.

- ABF cannot come into or search your workplace without a warrant, or without your consent.
- Say: "I do not consent for you to come in."
- If someone else lets them in, you can still ask them to leave.
- Ask: "Do you have a warrant? Please show me."

If they have a warrant

Find out what it says.

- Ask: “Please read the warrant to me.” Ask for an interpreter if you need.
- Ask: “Was this warrant issued by a court?”
- If not from a court, ABF can still come in and search, but can only ask for your name and visa status. Do not answer other questions.

If they have a warrant and come inside

You still have rights.

- They should knock and wait before coming into rooms.
- They cannot use force or search you unless you are detained.
- They must treat you with dignity and respect. If they don't, you can complain and they must record it.

Remember these things

- It is your right to ask for an interpreter before answering questions.
- Show proof **only** of your name and visa if they ask.
- Do not sign anything you do not understand.
- If your visa is being cancelled, or you are being taken to detention — call a migration lawyer urgently.

Know your rights with Australian Border Force

A guide for sex workers.
Made by Vixen, Rising Red Lantern and the Human Rights Law Centre.

Scan for more information

vixen.org.au
hrlc.org.au

Your rights when ABF comes to your workplace.

You have rights.
Use the traffic light cards.

Thai · 中文 · 한국어 · 日本語 · Tiếng Việt · Easy English

VIXEN by sex workers, for sex workers | RISING RED LANTERN | Human Rights Law Centre

Important contacts

Vixen peer support:
03 9070 9050
peersupport@vixen.org.au

Free Interpreting Service:
131 450