



# Refugee Family Reunion: Family Stream Visas for Children

## The Family Stream

Australian citizens and permanent residents can sponsor certain family members overseas through visas in the Family Stream. This fact sheet covers the two most common stand-alone visas for children, the Dependant Child Visa (Subclass 101) and Orphan Relative (Subclass 117).

## Dependent Child Visa

This visa allows children to move to Australia and live with their parent here. It is a permanent visa.

## Requirements for applicants (the child overseas)

To be granted this visa, the child overseas must:

- Be aged under 18 when they apply; or
- Be aged 18 to 25 and a **fulltime student** studying a recognised course of study; or
- Be aged over 18 and permanently incapacitated due to a disability.

Importantly, if the child is over 18 when they apply or turns 18 while the application is being processed, **they must remain in fulltime study until the visa is granted.**

The child must also:

- be single and financially dependent on you (the sponsor); and
- must pass criminal record, security and health checks; and
- Anyone who can legally decide where they live must consent to them coming to Australia.

## Requirements for sponsors

There are also requirements that the sponsor must meet. They must:

- be a permanent resident or Australian citizen; and
- have lived in Australia for at least two years; and
- be the **biological or legally adopted parent** of the child overseas; and
- pass criminal record checks.

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## Costs

The application fee to be paid to Home Affairs when the application is lodged is currently \$3,055. The fee usually increases each year on 1 July.

The sponsor will also need to pay for medical checks, document translations, criminal record checks, DNA testing (if requested) and airfares.

## Processing Time

You can check the current average processing time of Subclass 101 Child Visa applications [here](#).

## What if my application is refused?

If Home Affairs does not believe that either the applicant or the sponsor meets the criteria for the visa, they will send you a refusal letter and the reasons they reached that decision.

You can apply to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) for a review of that decision if you believe that it was wrong. There are strict time limits to apply to the AAT. You must apply within 28 days of being notified of the decision.

## Orphan Relative Visa

This visa allows children who do not have parents to come to Australia and live with a relative who is an Australian citizen or permanent resident. It is a permanent visa.

## Requirements for applicants (child overseas)

To be granted this visa, the child overseas must:

- Be aged under 18 when they apply; and
- Be single and not engaged to be married; and
- Both their parents must be deceased, missing or permanently unable to care for them; and
- Anyone who can legally decide where they live must consent to them coming to Australia; and
- They must pass criminal record, security and health checks.

## Requirements for sponsors

There are also requirements that the sponsor must meet. They must:

- be a permanent resident or Australian citizen; and
- have lived in Australia for at least two years; and
- be the **sibling, grandparent, aunt or uncle of the child** overseas; and
- pass criminal record checks.

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## Costs

The application fee to be paid to Home Affairs when the application is lodged is currently \$1,870. The fee usually increases each year on 1 July.

The sponsor will also need to pay for medical checks, document translations, criminal record checks, DNA testing (if requested) and airfares.

## Processing Time

You can check the current average processing time of Subclass 117 Orphan Relative Visa applications [here](#).

## What if my application is refused?

If Home Affairs does not believe that either the applicant or the sponsor meets the criteria for the visa they will send you a refusal letter and the reasons they reached that decision.

You can apply to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) for a review of that decision if you believe that it was wrong. There are strict time limits to apply to the AAT. You must apply within 28 days of being notified of the decision.