



Refugee Family Reunion: Family Stream Visas for Partners and their Children

The Family Stream

Australian citizens and permanent residents can sponsor their partners through visas in the Family Stream. Dependent children can also be included on a Partner Visa application.

Partner Visa (Subclass 309/100)

This visa allows your partner and dependent children to move to Australia and live here. It is a two-stage visa. You apply for both a temporary and permanent visa at the same time. The temporary visa is granted first, and the permanent after 2 years if the relationship has continued. However, if the relationship has already continued for 3 years or more (or for 2 years if you have a child together) then the permanent visa will be granted more quickly.

Requirements for applicants

To be granted this visa, the applicant must:

- Be aged over 18 when they apply; and
- Be married or in a de facto relationship with an Australian citizen or permanent resident (the sponsor); and
- Satisfy Home Affairs that the relationship is genuine and continuing; and
- Meet health and character criteria.

There are also extra requirements if the applicant is applying in Australia and only has a bridging visa or does not have a visa. You should speak to a lawyer before applying if you are in this situation.

To be included on the application, children must:

- under 18 years of age, or
- between 18–22 and dependent on the applicant or sponsor*, or
- over 18 with a serious disability which stops the child from working; and
- not married or engaged.

* Note, children must be aged under 23 both when the application is lodged and when it is decided.

Requirements for sponsors

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

- be a permanent resident or Australian citizen; and
- pass criminal record and character checks.

Costs

The application fees need to be paid to Home Affairs when the application is lodged. The current fees are:

- Partner - \$9,365
- Children under 18 - \$2,345 each
- Children over 18 - \$4,685 each

The fees usually increase each year on 1 July.

The sponsor or applicant will also need to pay for medical checks, document translations, criminal record checks, DNA testing of children (if requested) and airfares if the applicant is overseas.

Processing Time

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

How to apply

Applications must be lodged online using Home Affairs' IMMI account system. You should try to attach all your supporting documents, including a Form 80 for each applicant aged 16 or over. Your application may be delayed if you do not attach everything that is needed.

It is important to provide strong evidence of your relationship, including:

- Passport of the applicant.
- Marriage certificate.
- Evidence of doing cultural, social, sporting, or other activities together.
- Proof of any joint travel undertaken since the beginning of the relationship.
- Phone accounts and correspondence, especially during any time the couple were apart.
- Full birth certificates (showing details of parents) if any children of the relationship.
- Two Form 888s signed by people who know about your relationship with your partner.

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.

The applicant (or sponsor if the applicant is overseas) can apply to the Administrative Review Tribunal

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