

"The **only** resource that
you'll need to do your own
Australian partner visa"

THE AUSTRALIAN PARTNER VISA GUIDE

LOVE SHOULDN'T COST
YOU EVERYTHING

THIRD EDITION

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2019



This *Australian Partner Visa Guide* is intended for **informational purposes only**. The information contained in this guide does not in any way create a solicitor-client relationship and does not constitute legal advice.

Please consult the relevant professional for advice appropriate to your situation before proceeding with anything.

Use of this guide does not guarantee success or positive visa grants.

Use at your own discretion.

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Her guiding principle for her firm Frontier Migration Services is to make immigration law more accessible and transparent to the public.

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Table Of Contents

FOREWORD	7
INTRODUCTION TO AUSTRALIAN PARTNER VISAS	9
How To Use This Guide.....	11
Role Of The Immigration Lawyer.....	15
Warning – Invasion Of Privacy Ahead.....	17
IMPORTANT INFORMATION BEFORE YOU START	21
WHAT IS THE PARTNER VISA?	25
What Can I Do With This Visa?.....	28
How Much Does It Cost?	29
Processing Times	34
How Do I Apply For The Visa?.....	37
Online Applications.....	38
Paper Applications	42
WHAT ARE THE LEGISLATIONS AND REGULATIONS?	43
WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR BEING A SPONSOR?	45



Sponsorship Requirements	47
Sponsorship Undertakings	49
Approved Sponsors In Partner Visas.....	57
Practical Implications Of New Sponsor Requirements	59
Police Checks For Sponsors	61
WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR THE APPLICANT?	65
Applying In Australia.....	68
Applying Outside Of Australia.....	69
Tourist Visas Or Temporary Visas To Get Onshore	70
Automatic Work Rights - Tourist Visa Conundrum.....	75
THINGS TO WATCH OUT FOR	81
Genuineness Of The Relationship	82
Length Of The Relationship	83
Documents Submitted With The Application	85
Gaps In Your Relationship.....	87
MIGRATION REGULATION CRITERIA TO SATISFY	89
Financial Aspects Of The Relationship	91
Nature Of The Household	96
Social Aspects Of The Relationship.....	100
Nature Of The Persons' Commitment To Each Other.....	108
How To Register Your Relationship	112
Long Distance Relationships.....	114
Explaining Gaps	117
How To Prepare These Documents.....	119
THE OTHER FORMS AND CHECKS	121
Form 80 - Personal Particulars.....	122
Police Checks	127
Health Examination	134
How To Get A Health Examination.....	136
STATUTORY DECLARATIONS	139
How To Fill In The Statutory Declarations.....	142
Statutory Declarations Of Friends and Family.....	147



Statutory Declarations Of The Sponsor And Applicant	149
HOW TO PREPARE YOUR DOCUMENTS	163
What Kind Of Documents?.....	164
Certifying Documents	166
Translating Documents	169
PRACTICAL POINTS ABOUT THE ONLINE APPLICATION	174
WHAT I'VE LEARNT FROM REVIEWING APPLICATIONS	190
Do's And Don't's Of Statutory Declarations.....	191
Preparing Evidence	208
Investigations By The Department.....	209
Overstaying Your Visa And The Effects	212
AFTER YOU HAVE APPLIED	216
How To Get Medicare	221
END OF RELATIONSHIP	225
CONCLUDING WORDS	227
REVIEW SERVICES	230
CHECKLISTS.....	236
SUGGESTED WORKFLOW	237

Note From The Author

As the process for applying for a partner visa continually changes, our strategies and approach to applying also needs to change. This third edition has been revised to reflect the updates and changes in the process.

This new edition incorporates everything that has changed and has been learnt during the time since first publication in 2016.

We've come a long way since the first edition and I am eternally grateful to the readers who contribute

What Is The Partner Visa?

The partner visa consists of 2 stages: temporary and permanent.

When you first apply for this visa you are actually submitting 2 applications - the first one is the temporary partner visa and the second being the permanent residency application. That being said, submitting them at the same time does not guarantee that both will be granted.

The entire process takes 2 years. Your temporary visa will be granted within these 2 years and then the permanent residency processing happens at month 24.

What Is The Partner Visa

If you are granted the temporary visa then after 2 years you will be contacted again in regards to the permanent visa application you had lodged. At that 2 year mark you will be asked to satisfy another set of criteria before being granted permanent residency.

In 2016 when I first published the book, the processing time was around 12 months. And so another 12 months later you would be asked for more information to begin the second stage processing. Nowadays as of April 2019, the minimum processing time is 21 months, meaning permanent visa processing is a mere 3 months after the grant of the temporary visa i.e. 3 months later you need to satisfy a whole new criteria and process.

I have written an additional supplement for second stage processing [here](#).

The guide to the second stage processing is available for purchase [here](#).

The *Permanent Partner Visa Process* includes additional templates, checklists as well as interview questions that are specific to the permanent partner visa process.





Important:

This is an application for a 2 year temporary visa

After 2 years you need to satisfy another set of criteria to be granted permanent residency

For long-standing relationships or for partnerships that have children, the 2 year period waiting for permanent residency is waived.

Because this is a 2-in-1 visa application, it is important to note that although they may not be granted at the same time, the applicant must satisfy the criteria for **both visas at the time of lodgement**. This is why in the Migration Regulations it states that the temporary subclasses of 309 and 820 show the visa application charge as being NIL and the permanent 100 and 801 as being \$7,160.00.

What Is The Partner Visa

How Much Does It Cost?

Before you start your journey you need to understand that this is a long process that requires a fair bit of time and money. But the good thing is that you do not need to pay it all at once.

Like many other visas, you prepare the documentation in stages and the following will give you an idea of how much you should budget.

Visa fees often change around the end of the Australian financial year of June-July. For most up to date visa fees, please consult the Department's website.

Visa fees

Partner visa application fees increased significantly for applications lodged on or after 1 January 2015.

The application fee for an onshore partner visa is currently \$7,160. This will go up in July 2019.

For offshore partner visas and prospective spouse (fiancé) visas, the fees are also \$7,160.

There used to be a difference between onshore and offshore application fees but the

What Are The Criteria For Being A Sponsor?

The sponsor is the Australian permanent resident or citizen partner. An eligible New Zealand citizen may also sponsor provided that they satisfy certain requirements.

There used to be only general age and citizenship requirements for the Australian partner and they may need to undergo police or health checks but with the amendments in December 2018, there are now a raft of changes that turns the spotlight and scrutiny on the Australian sponsor.



Important:

There are limitations on sponsorship. These are called the 'serial sponsorship' provisions.

In order to be a sponsor you must be:

1. Over 18 years old
2. An Australian permanent resident or citizen;
or
3. Eligible New Zealand citizen
4. Have not been sponsored themselves in the last 5 years
5. Have not sponsored another partner or spouse in the last 5 years
6. Have not been convicted of a relevant offence or have a significant criminal record
7. Be an approved sponsor

The Other Forms and Checks

Aside from the application forms for the applicant and sponsor, you will require the following additional information:

- Form 80 - Personal particulars for assessment including character assessment
- Police checks
- Health examination
- Statutory declarations

Statutory Declarations

Statutory Declarations are **legal documents** and need to be properly signed and witnessed. Treat these with as much respect as your visa applications.

In this section we will go through what a statutory declaration looks like and how to fill them in.

Statutory declarations need to be signed in front of a qualified person who is allowed to witness and certify documents. For more information see the section titled 'Certifying documents' and our page ['Who can witness and certify documents?'](#)

How To Prepare Documents With Your Online Application

The best format for all documents is Portable Document Format (PDF).

PDF retains formatting and is universally accepted no matter which operating system.

It's also a format that cannot be easily tampered with or changed after uploading to the application system and is preferred by the Department.

At time of publication, the maximum file size allowed for all uploads is 5MB and the maximum number of files allowed is 60.

Identity documents are now limited to 500KB in size.

Practical Points About the Online Application Process

Since the first publication of this guide, I've received great feedback and more commonly asked questions, namely about the online application process.

So this section will go through small quirks of the online application process and the likely questions you may have once you start.

Suggested Workflow

We've included with this guide a number of checklists, worksheets, templates etc and we know it's extremely daunting to even begin.

Therefore we suggest the following:

1. Use the '**Partner Visa Checklist**' to determine what you will need.
2. Fill in the '**Document Collection Worksheet**' as you go through the checklist.
3. Investigate where and how to get the documents listed in '**Document Collection Worksheet**'.
4. Prioritise which documents to get now or later depending on how long it will take.