



Australian Government
Department of Immigration
and Citizenship

Parent Migration

3

About this booklet

This booklet is designed to assist in understanding the steps for applying for **Parent Migration to Australia**, and in how to complete the application form with minimal, if any, help.

This booklet is one of a series of booklets about migration to Australia. The booklets are:

- 1 Partner Migration
- 2 Child Migration
- 3 Parent Migration
- 4 Other Family Migration
- 5 Employer Sponsored Migration
- 6 General Skilled Migration
- 7 Business Skills Migration
- 8 Special Migration

For general information about migration to Australia, read information form 1126i *Migrating to Australia*, or visit the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (the department) website

www.immi.gov.au/immigration/

Using a migration agent

You do not need to use a migration agent to lodge a visa application. However, if you choose to use an agent, the department recommends that you use a registered migration agent.

Under Australian law, anyone who uses knowledge of migration procedures to offer immigration assistance to a person wishing to obtain a visa to enter or remain in Australia must be registered or exempt from registration (see page 42).

All registered migration agents are bound by the Migration Agents Code of Conduct, which requires agents to act professionally in their clients' lawful best interests. A list of registered migration agents is available from the Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority (Office of the MARA) website

www.mara.gov.au

You can contact the Office of the MARA at:

Website: www.mara.gov.au

E-mail: info@mara.gov.au

Mail: PO Box Q1551
QVB NSW 1230
AUSTRALIA

In person: Level 8
22 Market Street
SYDNEY NSW
AUSTRALIA

Office hours are 9am – 5pm Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST)

Telephone: 1300 226 272 or +61 2 9078 3552

Fax: +61 2 9078 3591

The Office of the MARA investigates complaints against registered migration agents and may take disciplinary action against them. If you have a concern about a registered migration agent, you should contact the Office of the MARA. The Code of Conduct and complaint form are available from the Office of the MARA website.

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Terms you need to know

Aged parent	A parent who is old enough to be granted an Australian age pension. For men this is currently 65 years of age and for women this is currently between 60 and 65 years of age, depending on their date of birth. See page 17 for details.
Applicant	The applicant is the person (or persons) applying to migrate or remain permanently in Australia.
Australian Government office overseas	An Australian Embassy, High Commission, Consulate or Consulate-General or Australian Trade Commission
Bridging visa	When a non-citizen who is in Australia (but is not in immigration detention) makes a valid application in Australia for a substantive visa that can be granted while the applicant is in Australia, the substantive visa application is generally also an application for a bridging visa. A bridging visa enables a person to remain lawfully in Australia while their visa application is being processed. Bridging visa applications made in this way (automatically) will, depending on the person's immigration status when they lodge their substantive visa application, be either an application for a Bridging A, C or E visa.
Centrelink	Centrelink is an Australian Government Statutory Agency assisting people to become self-sufficient and supporting eligible Australian citizens, Australian permanent residents and eligible New Zealand citizens in need. Further information about Centrelink and its services is available by contacting 132 850 (in Australia) or the nearest Centrelink office in Australia or from the website www.centrelink.gov.au
Child	Child (when used in relation to another person) means: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a natural (biological) child; or• an adopted child within the meaning of the <i>Migration Act 1958</i>; or• a child conceived through an artificial conception procedure (ACP); or• a child born under surrogacy arrangements, where parentage has been transferred by court order under a prescribed state or territory law.
Close relative	In relation to a person, means: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the partner of the person; or• a child, parent, brother or sister of the person; or• a step-child, step-parent, step-brother or step-sister of the person.
De facto partner	A person is the de facto partner of another person (whether of the same sex or a different sex) if the person is in a de facto relationship with the other person.

De facto relationship

For the purposes of a Parent visa application, a person is in a de facto relationship with another person if:

- they are not in a married relationship (for the purposes of the *Migration Act 1958*) with each other;
- they are not related by family;
- they have a mutual commitment to a shared life to the exclusion of all others;
- the relationship between them is genuine and continuing;
- they live together or do not live separately and apart on a permanent basis; and
- the relationship has continued for the period of 12 months immediately preceding the date of application.

Note: The 12-month relationship requirement at time of application lodgement does not apply if the applicant can establish that:

- there are compelling and compassionate circumstances for the grant of the visa (eg. there are children of the relationship or cohabitation was not permissible under the law of the country where the applicant resided for the 12 months before lodging the application); or
- the applicant's partner is, or was, the holder of a permanent humanitarian visa and, before that permanent humanitarian visa was granted, they were in a relationship that satisfies the requirements of a de facto relationship according to the Migration Regulations 1994, and the department was informed of this before the permanent humanitarian visa was granted; or
- the de facto relationship was registered under a law of a state or territory prescribed in the Acts Interpretation (Registered Relationship) Regulations 2008 as a kind of relationship prescribed in those regulations.

Department

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

Dependent

A person is dependent on another person if, at time of application lodgement, the first person has been wholly or substantially reliant on the other person for financial support to meet their basic needs (food, clothing and shelter):

- for a substantial period (usually 2 years) immediately before that time and that reliance on the other person is greater than any reliance by the first person on any other person; or
- due to the first person being incapacitated for work due to the total or partial loss of the first person's bodily or mental functions.

Dependent child

A child or step-child who has not turned 18 years of age, or, if aged 18 years or over, is a dependant. A dependent child must not have a spouse or de facto partner, or be engaged to be married.

DNA

DNA (Deoxyribonucleic acid) is the genetic material present in every cell of the body. For example, it is in blood, saliva, skin and hair. A comparison of genetic material from 2 or more people can show whether they are biologically related to each other.

Eligible New Zealand citizen	<p>An eligible New Zealand citizen is a person who at the time of last entry to Australia would have met health and character checks and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • held a Special Category (subclass 444) visa on 26 February 2001; or • held a Special Category (subclass 444) visa that was in force for at least one year in the 2 years before 26 February 2001; or • has a certificate, issued under the <i>Social Security Act 1991</i>, that states the citizen, for the purposes of the <i>Social Security Act 1991</i>, was residing in Australia on a particular date (note that Centrelink stopped accepting applications for these certificates in February 2004).
Married relationship	<p>Persons are in a married relationship if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they are married to each other under a marriage that is valid for the purposes of the <i>Migration Act 1958</i>; • they have a mutual commitment to a shared life as husband and wife to the exclusion of all others; • the relationship between them is genuine and continuing; and • they live together or do not live separately and apart on a permanent basis.
Office of the department	An office of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship in Australia.
Offshore visa	A visa that can only be granted while the visa applicant is outside Australia. Generally, this also means that the visa applicant must be outside Australia when they lodge their visa application.
Onshore visa	A visa that can only be granted while the visa applicant is in Australia. The visa applicant must also be in Australia when they lodge their visa application.
Partner	A spouse or de facto partner.
Permanent resident	A non-citizen, being usually resident in Australia, who is the holder of a permanent visa.
Relative	<p>In relation to a person means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a 'close relative' of the person; • a grandparent, grandchild, aunt, uncle, niece or nephew or the step equivalent.
Settled	To meet settled requirements, a person must have been lawfully resident in Australia for a reasonable period, usually 2 years.
Sponsor	The Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident or eligible New Zealand citizen who undertakes sponsorship obligations.
Spouse	A person is the spouse of another person if they are in a married relationship.
Step-child	A child of your current partner or a child of your former partner when the child is under 18 years and you have a legal responsibility to care for that child (eg. when your former partner is deceased and you have legal custody of your former partner's child). You will need to provide a certified copy of the overseas or Australian court order which you have in relation to the child.
Substantive visa	Any visa other than a Bridging visa or a Criminal Justice visa.

Overview of parent migration

There are 2 categories of parent visas:

- the **parent category**; and
- the **contributory parent category**.

These 2 parent categories provide eligible parents of settled Australian citizens, settled Australian permanent residents or settled eligible New Zealand citizens with the choice of 3 migration pathways to Australia. Depending on their circumstances, applicants may apply for an offshore or onshore visa.

Within the Family Stream of Australia's annual Migration Program, a limited number of visa places are allocated to parent migration.

There is a significant waiting period for a parent category visa. Based on current planning levels parent category visa applicants can expect to wait approximately 15 years for their application to be finalised.

More places are allocated to contributory parent category visas. Based on current planning levels, contributory parent category visa applicants generally can expect their applications to be finalised in under 2 years.

Further information regarding the number of parent visa places is available from the department's website www.immi.gov.au/migrants/family/parent-visa-processing-priorities.htm

The **parent category** is a direct pathway to permanent residence.

The **contributory parent category** has 2 options. Applicants can apply directly for permanent residency or go through a 2-stage, 2-visa pathway to permanent residence. The 2-stage process allows applicants to stagger the cost. Please refer to page 6, 'Cost', for full details.

Contributory parent category visas have a substantially higher second instalment of the visa application charge (2nd VAC) for each adult applicant, a higher Assurance of Support (AoS) bond and longer AoS period so as to make a higher contribution towards their future health and welfare costs. However, contributory parent visa applicants are significantly advantaged by much shorter processing times.

Important considerations

The migration process for a parent can mean significant personal, cultural and social upheaval for both the parent and the sponsor's family. Following are some key considerations that may affect your decision as to whether or not to apply for a parent visa and, if so, what type of parent visa.

Financial planning

The Australian Government recommends that parent migration and its alternatives be fully discussed. In particular, long-term financial planning should be undertaken by parents and their families, especially with their sponsors, before a parent visa application is lodged.

Compared to many countries, the cost of living in Australia is high and the government expects parent migrants to be financially self-sufficient and for sponsors to assist their parents, especially if they are in Australia, for the duration of the processing of their visa application. Depending on the category of visa applied for, the time frame requiring financial self-sufficiency and/or sponsor support can be a protracted period.

Considerations should cover not only the visa application charges, but also medical and pharmaceutical costs, private health and travel insurance. Unless they are a citizen of a country with which Australia has a reciprocal agreement, parent visa applicants in Australia will have no access to health or welfare benefits for the entire period they await a decision on their parent visa application. After visa grant, parent visa holders will be eligible for Medicare but, like most new migrants, will have a 2-year exclusion period from other government entitlements and will have a 10-year wait before being eligible for an Australian aged or disability pension.

The Assurance of Support (AoS) bond is held for 2 years for parent category migrants and for 10 years for contributory parent category migrants (even if the person becomes an Australian citizen). See 'Assurance of Support' on page 26 for further details on the AoS.

Cost

- A **parent category** visa is the lower cost/longer wait option.
- A **contributory parent category** visa is the higher cost/shorter wait option.
- The costs of a **contributory parent category** visa can be staggered over a temporary to permanent 2-visa process provided you apply for the corresponding permanent contributory parent category visa while you are still the holder of a temporary contributory parent category visa.
 - The AoS and payment of AoS bond is not required at time of grant of the temporary contributory parent category visa, only at time of grant of the permanent contributory parent category visa.
 - A portion of the second instalment of the visa application charge (2nd VAC) for a permanent visa is paid at time of temporary visa grant and the remaining portion of the 2nd VAC will be paid at time of permanent visa grant. However, the remaining 2nd VAC payment for the permanent **contributory parent category** visa will be based on the lodgement date of your permanent visa application. Consequently, the 2nd VAC will have been subject to annual adjustments (ie. indexation) since you were granted the temporary **contributory parent category** visa.

For details on costs associated with parent visas, see form 990i *Charges*, which is available from the department's website www.immi.gov.au/allforms/

Waiting period

The demand for all parent visas continues to exceed the number of total parent visa places available under the Migration Program.

There is a significant waiting period for a **parent category** visa. At current planning levels, new applicants for a parent category visa will wait about 15 years before visa grant consideration after being allocated a queue date.

Contributory parent category visa applicants generally have much shorter waiting time and at current planning levels can expect their applications to be finalised in under approximately 12 months.

Processing times for parent category visas and contributory parent category visas will vary depending on demand and planning levels. Further information regarding the number of parent visa places is available from the department's website www.immi.gov.au/migrants/family/parent-visa-processing-priorities.htm

Medicare

The majority of parent visa applicants apply for their visas while they are residing overseas. Nevertheless, there are limited circumstances under which a person can apply for an onshore parent visa while lawfully in Australia on a temporary visa (see second footnote on page 14).

If you apply for an onshore parent visa, you need to consider the issue of health insurance as you may be waiting for a prolonged period in Australia while your visa application is finalised. You need to be aware that:

- parent visa applicants in Australia are not eligible to access the Australian Government's health care scheme, Medicare, for the entire period that they are awaiting a decision on their visa application;
- certain parent visa applicants in Australia who are citizens of a country that has a reciprocal health care agreement (RHCA) with Australia may have limited access to Medicare services; and
- eligibility for full access to Medicare coverage occurs only AFTER parents have been either granted their offshore parent visa and have entered Australia or when they are granted their onshore parent visa in Australia.

Health insurance

Parent visa applicants need to take out private health insurance for the entire time they are in Australia while waiting a decision on their parent visa application. This is the case even for those parent visa applicants who are citizens of an RHCA country as they will not have full Medicare coverage.

Social Security

The social security system in Australia is managed by Centrelink, which has strict guidelines on who can access benefits.

- Like most other new migrants, once a person is granted a permanent parent visa, they do not have access to most Centrelink benefits for 2 years.
- All migrants must wait 10 years after becoming a permanent resident before they are eligible to apply for an Australian aged or disability pension.
- The Assurance of Support bond is held for 2 years for **parent category** migrants and for 10 years for **contributory parent category** migrants (even after the person becomes an Australian citizen).

Current and previous contributory parent category visa-holders

If you have a married or de facto partner, and you are considering applying for a contributory parent category visa, you should include your partner as a migrating family member in your visa application. If you choose not to include your partner in your visa application, and you are then granted a contributory parent category visa, you may not be able to sponsor your partner under partner migration for 5 years. For further information about this sponsorship limitation refer to booklet 1, *Partner Migration*, or the department's website.

Application queue

Capping

Visa grant numbers are controlled by a legislative mechanism under s 85 of the *Migration Act 1958* called 'capping'. Capping is used to ensure that planning levels for migration visas are not exceeded. It is used when it becomes evident that the demand for visa grants is higher than the number of visa places available under the Migration Program.

Queuing

Queuing is an administrative mechanism that is ongoing, unlike the s 85 capping mechanism, where the Minister signs a legislative instrument that identifies the maximum number of visas that can be granted in a particular visa subclass and Migration Program year in which the cap is effective. The queue does not stop with the end of the Migration Program year, but establishes an order of precedence that can stretch many years into the future.

When you are queued, your application is placed in a queue specific to the visa subclass for which you have applied. To be queued, you must have met the legal requirements for the grant of the visa (with the exception of an acceptable AoS and payment of the AoS bond – see page 27 – and payment of 2nd VAC – see page 29). You are then allocated a queue date, which is the date on which the last of the initial legal requirements was met.

Parent and Contributory Parent visa applicants should note that given the limited number of visas that are available each year in the parent migration program stream, and the existing queues of applicants, neither the Minister nor any officer of the department can expedite a Parent or Contributory Parent visa application. A decision to bring forward the grant of a visa would disadvantage other applicants in circumstances that may be equally compelling and compassionate.

When a visa place becomes available under the Migration Program, visa grant is considered in order of the queue date allocated to an applicant. You must again meet all the legal requirements (including AoS and 2nd VAC) for the grant of the visa and all must be current at the same time. Once you satisfy all requirements for the grant of the visa, a visa will be granted to you.

Queue waiting times

The demand for all parent visas continues to exceed the number of total parent visa places available under the Migration Program. Consequently, all parent visas now have a queue.

There is a significant waiting period for a **parent category** visa. Currently, new parent visa category applicants will wait about 15 years in the queue.

There are more places available in the **contributory parent category**. Due to the significantly greater number of contributory parent category visas than parent category visas that are allocated in a Migration Program year, applicants can generally expect their applications to be finalised in under approximately 12 months.

Processing times for parent category visas and contributory parent category visas can vary depending on demand and planning levels.

Further information regarding the number of parent visa places is available from the department's website www.immi.gov.au/migrants/family/parent-visa-processing-priorities.htm

Applicants who have been placed in a queue can check their approximate position in that queue by using the Queue Position Calculator. This calculator is available on the department's website <https://www.ecom.immi.gov.au/qcalc/QDateAnswer.do> The data is updated on a monthly basis.

Basic requirements

Generally, all prospective parent visa applicants must be able to meet the following requirements before a parent visa can be granted:

- complete correct visa application forms and lodge them at the relevant office of the department, along with the payment of the 1st VAC;
- have a child who is a settled Australian citizen, permanent resident or eligible New Zealand citizen in Australia;
- are sponsored by that child or the child's partner (if the child is under 18 years, another person may act as sponsor as long as they meet certain criteria);
- if applying for an onshore parent visa, the main applicant can meet the age requirement. For men this is currently 65 years of age and for women this is currently between 60 and 65 years of age, depending on their date of birth. See page 17 for details;
- satisfy the Balance of Family (BoF) test;
- are of good character;
- meet health requirements;
- for a permanent parent visa application, provide an acceptable AoS to cover the potential cost of the use of welfare services during their first 2 years (**parent category** visa) or 10 years (**contributory parent category** visa) in Australia*; and
- pay the relevant 2nd VAC*.

*Payment of the AoS bond and 2nd VAC is generally not required until after all other legal requirements have been met for the grant of the visa for which you applied. The department will contact you by letter to advise when payment must be made.

Note: The 2nd VAC for Contributory Parent visa applications is significant. Processing times for contributory parent category visas can vary. It is important that applicants ensure that they have available funds for the 2nd VAC at all times in the application process as payment may be required at an earlier date than was originally anticipated at the time of visa application lodgement.

Details about each of the above requirements can be found in this booklet.

A temporary **contributory parent category** visa holder applying for the corresponding permanent **contributory parent category** visa may not need to meet all these requirements again – for details see page 11.

Note: There may be other migration options available for parents to consider.

For example:

- Working age parents, especially those under 45 years of age who are skilled with a professional qualification or trade, may wish to read booklet 6, *General Skilled Migration* and booklet 5, *Employer Sponsored Migration*.
- Persons who are substantially dependent on a relative in Australia for support may also wish to refer to the eligibility conditions for the Aged Dependent Relative visa in booklet 4, *Other Family Migration*. An aged dependent relative is a relative of an Australian citizen, an Australian permanent resident or an eligible New Zealand citizen who:
 - is not in a married or de facto relationship; and
 - has been dependent on that person for a reasonable period **and** remains dependent; and
 - is old enough to be granted an aged pension under the *Social Security Act 1991*.

All migration booklets are available from the department's website www.immi.gov.au/allforms/

Parents can apply for permanent migration to Australia under one of the 4 permanent parent visa classes:

- **Contributory Parent**
Class CA (Contributory Parent–Migrant (subclass 143))
- **Contributory Aged Parent**
Class DG (Contributory Aged Parent–Residence (subclass 864))
- **Parent**
Class AX (Parent–Migrant (subclass 103))
- **Aged Parent**
Class BP (Aged Parent–Residence (subclass 804))

For **permanent parent visa classes**, the following additional requirement applies:

- An AoS is required (see page 27 'Assurance of Support' for details).

Parents can also apply for temporary entry to Australia under one of 2 temporary parent visa classes:

- **Contributory Parent (Temporary)**
Class UT (Contributory Parent–Temporary (subclass 173))
- **Contributory Aged Parent (Temporary)**
Class UU (Contributory Aged Parent–Temporary (subclass 884))

For temporary parent visa classes, the following information applies.

An AoS and AoS bond payment is not required.

You pay a portion of the entire 2nd VAC for a permanent **contributory parent category** visa at time of temporary **contributory parent category** visa grant (the remaining portion of the 2nd VAC will be paid just before permanent visa grant). The 2nd VAC payment for your temporary **contributory parent category** visa application will be based on the date that you lodged that application. The actual amount that you will have to pay for the 2nd VAC can be found on form 990i *Charges*, which is available from any office of the department or from the department's website www.immi.gov.au/allforms/

Note: The remaining portion of the 2nd VAC payment for the permanent **contributory parent category** visa will be based on the lodgement date of your permanent visa application. Consequently, the 2nd VAC will have been subject to annual adjustments (ie. indexation) after you lodged your application for, and was granted, the temporary **contributory parent category** visa.

Applicants are required to pay a lower 2nd VAC before grant of the temporary visa. The appropriate 2nd VAC must also be paid before grant of the permanent visa. Where a charge is levied by the department, you can check the amount of the charge listed on form 990i *Charges*. This form is available from the department's website www.immi.gov.au/allforms/

Once all legislative requirements are met, you will be granted a temporary visa that is valid for a period of 2 years. This 2 year period commences:

- from the date of visa grant for a Contributory Aged Parent (Class UU–Temporary) visa; and
- from the initial entry date into Australia on a Contributory Parent (Class UT–Temporary) visa.

The initial entry date into Australia is the date that you first arrived in Australia as the holder of a Contributory Parent (Class UT–Temporary) visa (see page 41 for more information on initial entry date).

A temporary contributory parent category visa holder has access to Medicare and full work rights. It is important to note that the temporary contributory parent category visa cannot be extended or renewed.

Applying for the corresponding permanent contributory parent visa as a temporary contributory parent visa holder

If, since last entering Australia, you have been granted a temporary **contributory parent category** visa, you may apply for only one of the following visas:

- the corresponding permanent contributory parent category visa;
- a Medical Treatment visa; or
- a protection visa.

This restriction will apply for as long as you remain in Australia – even after your temporary visa ceases.

As a temporary visa holder, you can apply for the corresponding permanent visa, that is:

- a Contributory Parent (Class UT–Temporary) visa holder may apply only for a Contributory Parent (Class CA–Migrant) visa; or
- a Contributory Aged Parent (Class UU–Temporary) visa holder may apply only for a Contributory Aged Parent (Class DG–Residence) visa.

By applying for the corresponding permanent visa during the 2 years' validity period of the temporary visa, you obtain certain concessions, such as:

- you pay a substantially reduced 1st VAC on lodgement of your permanent visa application (see page 28 'Costs and charges associated with your visa application');
- you can still meet the relationship requirement if your child has died and you have no other child who is a settled Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident or eligible New Zealand citizen (see page 16 'Relationship requirement');
- you are taken to be sponsored if the person who sponsored you for your temporary contributory parent visa dies before your temporary visa expires and there is no other person available that can meet sponsorship requirements (see page 19 'Limitations on sponsorship');

- you are not re-assessed against the Balance of Family test (see page 24 'Balance of Family test');
- generally, you are not required to undergo further health checks (see page 29 'Health'); and
- your dependant, who was included in your temporary contributory parent visa application and was subsequently granted the temporary visa, does not need to be still dependent on you. They can be included in your permanent contributory parent visa application even if they are no longer dependent.

However, you should note that you may again need to meet character requirements and that an AoS and AoS bond payment will be required.

If you are not the holder of a temporary contributory parent visa when you apply for the corresponding permanent visa, there are circumstances under which you can be regarded as having the status of a temporary contributory parent visa holder. These circumstances are, if you have held a temporary contributory parent visa:

- at any time in the 28 days immediately before applying for the corresponding permanent visa; or
- you can demonstrate that compassionate and compelling circumstances exist as to why you did not apply while your temporary contributory parent visa was still valid.

If you fall within one of the above 2 circumstances, please note that your visa status in Australia will be affected while your permanent contributory parent visa application is being processed.

Note: For more information about these circumstances, please contact the nearest office of the department.

If you do not have the status of a holder of a temporary contributory parent visa, none of the above concessions will apply to your permanent contributory parent visa application. You may still be able to apply for a permanent contributory parent visa, but you will be required to complete the application process as if you had never held a temporary contributory parent visa. Moreover, if you previously held an offshore temporary contributory parent visa and you have not departed Australia, you can only apply for the offshore permanent contributory parent visa at the Parent Visa Centre (PVC) and must depart Australia to be granted the visa.

The table on pages 14 and 15 provides a summary of some of the differences between the 6 visa classes available for parents.

Applying for a parent visa and you have an existing parent visa application with the department

For a subsequent parent visa application to be valid, you **must** withdraw any existing parent application that has not yet been decided.

You can withdraw an existing application by completing the relevant questions at Part B of form 47PA *Application for migration to Australia by a parent*. You and any other member of your family unit who was included in your parent visa application should also sign and date the request to withdraw the existing parent visa application. The 1st VAC that you paid at time of lodgement of your application is usually not refunded. However, if you:

- lodged an application for a Parent (Class AX–Migrant) visa before 27 June 2003 **and** apply for either a Contributory Parent (Class CA–Migrant) visa or Contributory Parent (Class UT–Temporary) visa; **OR**
- lodged an application for an Aged Parent (Class BP–Residence) visa before 1 July 2003 and apply for either a Contributory Aged Parent (Class DG–Residence) or a Contributory Aged Parent (Class UU–Temporary) visa,

there will be no 1st VAC for the new application.

Applying for a parent visa if you have lodged an application for review of a refusal decision of a parent visa application

If you have applied for review of a refusal decision in relation to a parent visa application and that review application has not been finalised, you must ensure that it has been withdrawn or finalised before another parent visa can be granted.

In applying for review of that decision, you may have lodged that application with a review body such as:

- the Migration Review Tribunal (MRT);
- the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT); or
- a court.

In relation to review applications with the MRT, you must either withdraw the application or must ensure that the application has been finally determined. Under migration legislation, an MRT application has been finally determined if:

- the MRT has already made a decision;
- the time to seek MRT review has passed; or
- the application was ineligible for MRT review.

However, you should note that you may have a finally determined MRT application, but the decision could still be eligible for judicial review by the courts. A decision by the AAT could also be eligible for judicial review by the courts. Until the time period in which to apply for judicial review has passed, such decisions by the MRT or AAT will not be regarded as having been finalised.

If you have applied for judicial review of any decision in relation to a parent visa, you must withdraw that application before another parent visa can be granted.

To withdraw any review application with the MRT or the AAT, you will need to contact the relevant review body to arrange for withdrawal of that application and to obtain evidence of that withdrawal that you can give to the department. If you have applied for judicial review (the courts) of a refusal decision in relation to a parent visa application, you should contact the department for advice.

Note: If you have an application before the MRT and you withdraw that application to be granted another parent visa, your MRT application fee will be refunded.

If you are in Australia and have an application for review of a refusal decision in relation to a parent visa application, you may have to leave Australia in order to make a valid application for another parent visa (see page 38). Before withdrawing your review application, you should contact the office of the department at which you plan to lodge another parent visa application. This is to find out whether you would be eligible to apply for another parent visa.

It is in your interest to provide all the documents listed on page 35 with your valid application. Failure to do so may result in the processing of your application being delayed, or a decision being made to refuse to grant the visa.

Summary of differences between the 6 parent visa classes

	Type of parent visa	Application form	Place of lodgement§	Location of Applicant when visa application is lodged†
Parent category	Parent (Class AX–Migrant) – Subclass 103	47PA	Parent Visa Centre (PVC)	Either in or outside Australia
	Aged Parent (Class BP–Residence) – Subclass 804	47PA	Office of the department in Australia	In Australia
Contributory category	Contributory Parent (Class CA–Migrant) – Subclass 143	47PA	Parent Visa Centre (PVC)	Either in or outside Australia
	Contributory Parent (Class UT–Temporary) – Subclass 173	47PA	Parent Visa Centre (PVC)	Either in or outside Australia
	Contributory Parent (Class CA–Migrant) – Subclass 143 <i>if applicant is the holder of Contributory Parent (Class UT–Temporary) – Subclass 173</i>	47PT	If in Australia: Office of the department in Australia If outside Australia: Parent Visa Centre (PVC)	Either in or outside Australia
	Contributory Aged Parent (Class DG–Residence) – Subclass 864	47PA	Office of the department in Australia	In Australia
	Contributory Aged Parent (Class UU–Temporary) – Subclass 884	47PA	Office of the department in Australia	In Australia
	Contributory Aged Parent (Class DG–Residence) – Subclass 864 <i>if applicant is the holder of Contributory Aged Parent (Class UU–Temporary) – Subclass 884</i>	47PT	Office of the department in Australia	In Australia

§ See 'Lodging your application' for the address of the PVC or for the address of your nearest office of the department in Australia.

† If an applicant is in Australia, an applicant may validly apply to the PVC or an office of the department only if they do not have a 'No Further Stay' condition (eg. 8503) attached to the visa that they hold at time of application. Parents who have had a previous visa application refused or cancelled while they are in Australia may also be prevented from applying in Australia.

For further details on parent visa applications, see page 39.

Age requirement*	Visa Application Charges#	Assurance of Support‡	Location of applicant when visa is granted	Visa validity period
No requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Visa Application Charge • 2nd Visa Application Charge 	2 years	Outside Australia	Permanent
Main applicant must be aged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Visa Application Charge • 2nd Visa Application Charge 	2 years	In Australia	Permanent
No requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Visa Application Charge • 2nd Visa Application Charge 	10 years	Outside Australia	Permanent
No requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Visa Application Charge • 2nd Visa Application Charge 	Not applicable	Outside Australia	2 years
No requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Visa Application Charge • 2nd Visa Application Charge 	10 years	Either in or outside Australia	Permanent
Main applicant must be aged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Visa Application Charge • 2nd Visa Application Charge 	10 years	In Australia	Permanent
Main applicant must be aged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Visa Application Charge • 2nd Visa Application Charge 	Not applicable	In Australia	2 years
Main applicant must be aged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Visa Application Charge • 2nd Visa Application Charge 	10 years	In Australia	Permanent

* An Aged Parent is defined in the 'Age requirement' section of this booklet. See page 17 for details.

Where a charge is levied by the department (ie. VAC), you can check the amount of the charge listed on form 990i *Charges* that is available from the department's website www.immi.gov.au/allforms/

Note: The 2nd VAC is applicable to each applicant included in the visa application. If a person is under 18 years, they may pay a reduced 2nd VAC.

‡ See 'Assurance of Support' on page 27 of this booklet for further details on the AoS.

Relationship requirement

An applicant for any parent visa must be a parent or step-parent of a settled Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident or eligible New Zealand citizen. Parent includes:

- a natural (biological) parent;
- an adoptive parent;
- the parent of a child conceived through an artificial conception procedure; and
- the parent of a child born under surrogacy arrangements, where parentage has been transferred by court order under a prescribed state or territory law.

Note: For the purposes of migration law, formal adoption of a child has the effect of severing the legal relationship between that child and the child's biological parent(s).

As a parent visa applicant, you must meet the relationship requirement both at time of application lodgement and when a decision is made by the department on that application.

The only exception to this is if you are applying for a permanent contributory parent visa and, at time of lodgement, you are the holder of the corresponding temporary contributory parent visa. If your child has died and you have no other child that is a settled Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident or eligible New Zealand citizen, then you can still meet the relationship requirement.

Age requirement

If you are in Australia and are applying for an onshore parent visa, you must meet an age requirement. However, this requirement to be an 'aged parent' is necessary only for the main applicant for an onshore parent visa.

An 'aged parent' is one who is old enough to be granted an Australian age pension. To apply for a parent visa that has the word 'Aged' in its title, only one parent needs to be aged.

Note: This does not mean you will receive the age pension in Australia if you are an aged parent. There is a waiting period of 10 years before you can receive the Australian age pension (unless there is a reciprocal agreement with another country which pays you a pension). The waiting period continues to apply even if you become an Australian citizen.

Qualifying ages for Australian age pension

For men – the qualifying age is 65 years.

For women – women should use the following table. The table shows the age at which a woman becomes eligible to apply for an Aged Parent visa.

Date of birth	Earliest date you can apply	Minimum age
Before 31 December 1942	From 30 June 2005	62.5
1 January 1943 – 30 June 1944	Between 1 January 2006 – 30 June 2007	63
1 July 1944 – 31 December 1945	Between 1 January 2008 – 30 June 2009	63.5
1 January 1946 – 30 June 1947	Between 1 January 2010 – 30 June 2011	64
1 July 1947 – 31 December 1948	Between 1 January 2012 – 30 June 2013	64.5
1 January 1949 and later	From 1 January 2014 onwards	65

Examples:

- If you were born before 31 December 1942, you would have been eligible to apply for an Aged Parent visa from 30 June 2005 onwards as you would have turned 62.5 years of age.
- If you were born on 10 February 1944, you would have been eligible to apply for an Aged Parent visa from 10 February 2007 onwards as you would have turned 63 years of age.
- If you were born on 15 September 1947, you would be eligible to apply for an Aged Parent visa from 15 March 2012 onwards as you would have turned 64.5 years of age.
- If you were born on 26 April 1953, you would be eligible to apply for an Aged Parent visa from 26 April 2018 onwards as you would have turned 65 years of age.

Further details about the qualifying age for the Australian Age Pension is available from the Centrelink website www.centrelink.gov.au

Sponsorship

What is sponsorship?

You and any dependants included in the application must be sponsored. The sponsor gives a written undertaking to provide support for you during your first 2 years in Australia if you apply outside Australia, or the 2 years following grant of your visa if you apply in Australia. This includes accommodation and financial assistance as required to meet your family's reasonable living needs. The sponsor must be aged 18 years or over.

Who can sponsor me?

Generally, you must be sponsored by your child or step-child, or that child or step-child's cohabiting partner. A sponsor must be:

- aged 18 years or over; and
- a settled Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident or an eligible New Zealand citizen at the time the application is lodged.

If your child is under 18 years of age

If your child or step-child has not turned 18 years, another person may act as sponsor as long as they have turned 18 years of age and are a settled Australian citizen, permanent resident or eligible New Zealand citizen. These may be:

- the cohabiting partner of your child or step-child; or
- a person who is a relative or guardian of your child or step-child; or
- a person who is a relative or guardian of the cohabiting partner; or
- a community organisation.

Settled and usually resident

To be eligible to sponsor you, your sponsor must be able to show that they are settled and, that they are usually resident in Australia.

Settled means that your Australian citizen, Australian permanent residents or eligible New Zealand citizen sponsor must have been lawfully resident in Australia for a reasonable period. Under policy, 2 years is generally considered to be a reasonable period. There may be exceptions, however, and the facts of each case are considered on an individual basis by the officer of the department who is making the decision, particularly if there have been periods of lawful temporary residence that can appropriately be counted towards the settled requirement.

A shorter period of lawful residence may be considered for Australian citizens for settled purposes if there are compassionate and compelling circumstances. As a matter of policy, the eligibility period for Australian citizen sponsors in such circumstances is at least 3 months' residence.

Being usually resident in Australia is a mandatory requirement for sponsors who are Australian permanent residents. In addition, it is also a requirement for all sponsors for the purposes of the Balance of Family (BoF) test (see page 24). The BoF test requires that, to be counted positively, your children must be usually resident in Australia. Under policy, the usually resident requirement provides a test of the sponsor's

commitment to Australia and their capacity to support you. Absence from Australia does not automatically mean it is not your sponsor's usual residence. However, whether or not a person is legally usually resident in a particular country depends on the individual circumstances and can only be determined by the officer of the department making the decision.

New Zealand citizens

Eligible New Zealand citizens can sponsor their non-New Zealand citizen parents to Australia without having to become an Australian permanent resident if they:

- held a Special Category Visa (SCV) on 26 February 2001; or
- if they held a SCV for at least one year in the 2 years preceding that date; or
- if they have a certificate, issued under the *Social Security Act 1991*, that states that the citizen was, for the purposes of the Act, residing in Australia on a particular date and would have met certain health and character requirements on last entry to Australia.

Sponsors who are eligible New Zealand citizens must undertake health and character checks. The decision-maker considering your application will advise your sponsor when you should undertake health and/or character checks (see pages 31–32).

In order to sponsor a person to migrate, any person from New Zealand who entered Australia after 26 February 2001 must be an Australian citizen or hold an Australian permanent resident visa.

Community organisation

A 'community organisation' may sponsor you if your child is under 18 years of age (regardless of whether or not a relative or guardian of your child is available). Types of community organisations that may be approved to sponsor include but are not restricted to:

- community-based organisations;
- ethnic organisations; and
- church-based groups with which the child under 18 years whose parents wish to migrate to Australia has affiliation or that are assisting the minor in settlement.

The community organisation should establish that:

- there is a relationship between it and your child under 18 years; and
- they are willing to support the application. For example, it could do this through the provision of a Statutory Declaration by a (local) senior member of the organisation.

Note: The sponsorship must remain in effect for the entire application processing period and for 2 years after visa grant.

Limitations on sponsorship

If you have applied for a parent visa, you are able to change your sponsor before your visa application is finally determined. If you wish to change your sponsor, please contact the PVC. Contact details for the PVC are on page 36.

Temporary contributory parent category visa holders

If:

- you are the holder of a temporary contributory parent visa; and
- you are applying for the corresponding permanent contributory parent visa; and
- your approved sponsor for your temporary contributory parent visa has died; and
- there is no other eligible sponsor available,

you are then taken to be sponsored.

However, you will have to attach a written statement to the department advising that this has occurred and you will need to provide documentary evidence.

Sponsorship obligations and undertaking

You and your sponsor should consider not only the VAC and who will undertake the legal commitment of the AoS and AoS bond, but also the commitment of long-term sponsorship obligations and resultant impact and costs. You should independently research and discuss with your sponsor the cost of living in Australia. It is very important that your sponsor understands that the Australian Government expects them (and not the Australian taxpayer) to provide you with adequate accommodation and financial assistance to meet your reasonable living needs should you not be in a position to support yourself and your immediate family members from your own resources.

The sponsorship obligations commence from the date of your arrival in Australia on your parent visa or the date you are granted the visa in Australia. This means that before you select the parent visa for which you wish to apply, you and your sponsor should undertake some long-term financial and lifestyle planning. Certain parent visa applicants who are in Australia may have many years to wait for a visa to be granted and, during this time, they may need to rely almost totally on the sponsor for support.

Long-term medical and pharmaceutical costs, private health or travel insurance and availability of multilingual aged-care facilities and services should also be researched by you and your sponsor. Parents who are from a country that does not have a reciprocal health care agreement with Australia will not be covered by Medicare. In addition, all migrants have to be in Australia for 10 years as a permanent resident before they are eligible to apply for an Australian aged or disability pension.

As part of their sponsorship obligations, your sponsor must sign a sponsorship undertaking in form 40 *Sponsorship for migration to Australia*. Before they undertake the sponsorship, your sponsor is advised to discuss the impact of sponsorship on their family and to think carefully about whether or not they are able to provide and maintain the support you require and, if not, whether there are available alternatives to parent migration.

Sponsorship form

Your sponsor must complete a sponsorship form (form 40 *Sponsorship for migration to Australia*). Form 40 can be downloaded from the department's website www.immi.gov.au. This form must be completed and signed by your sponsor, and should be lodged together at the same time as your application.

A sponsorship form is generally valid for 2 years from the time it is signed by your sponsor and, if there are delays in processing your application, your sponsor may need to complete a new form.

If you are the holder of a temporary contributory parent visa and you are applying for the corresponding permanent contributory parent visa, you still need to provide a completed new sponsorship form even though your sponsor may not have changed from when you applied for the temporary visa. However, you do not need to provide a new sponsorship form if:

- you are the holder of a temporary contributory parent visa; and
- you are applying for the corresponding permanent contributory parent visa; and
- your approved sponsor for your temporary contributory parent visa has died; and
- there is no other eligible sponsor available.

However, you will have to attach a written statement to the department advising that this has occurred and you will need to provide documentary evidence.

Sponsorship documentation

Your sponsor will need to provide proof of their relationship to you to sponsor you for a parent visa. Your sponsor will also need to give evidence of their Australian citizenship or permanent resident status in Australia or proof that they are an eligible New Zealand citizen. An Australian citizen will need to send a certified true copy of their citizenship certificate or, if Australian-born, a full certified copy of their birth certificate.

Your sponsor must provide certified copies of official documents as evidence of their age and family relationships, for instance:

- birth certificates (showing full names of parents);
- marriage certificates;
- death certificates; or
- adoption certificates.

Your sponsor may be asked to submit evidence of their being settled and usually resident in Australia. This information may include:

- the length of that residence and the amount of time spent in Australia;
- proof of having a settled home in Australia;
- ownership of a home, business or other investments, social network.

The department will make an assessment of your sponsor's ability to fulfil their sponsorship obligations and your sponsor may be asked to provide the department with certified documentation covering:

- their latest income tax assessment;
- their current pay slips or other satisfactory evidence of alternative income;
- evidence of major assets, including bank or similar accounts, details of real estate motor vehicle ownership;
- confirmation of liabilities, such as mortgage repayments, rent, hire purchase, credit card repayments etc; and
- any other evidence that may help to establish their ability to meet their sponsorship undertaking.

Dependants

Your application may cover a family unit, namely a main applicant and, if applicable, partner and dependants.

Partner

Your partner is your spouse or de facto partner.

Dependent children

A dependent child may be your child or step-child.

A child of any age is not considered dependent if he or she is married or in a de facto relationship, or is engaged to be married.

A child 18 years or over will not be considered dependent unless you can show that they are wholly or substantially reliant on you for financial support for their basic needs of food, shelter and clothing. You must also show that you have provided that support for a substantial period and that the child is more reliant on you than on any other person or source. Unless you can provide evidence of this, they should apply separately.

Children of any age who have a total or partial loss of bodily or mental functions that stops them earning a living are regarded as dependent and part of the family unit (whether or not they migrate with you). Give details of such children whether they are in your care or in an institution.

In all cases, you should attach evidence of your child's dependency on you.

Other dependants

You may include other relatives in your application if they are wholly or substantially reliant on you for financial support for their basic needs of food, shelter and clothing and they have been reliant on you for that support for a substantial period. They must also be more reliant on you for support than on any other person or source.

A relative may also be considered dependent on you if they are reliant on you for financial support because they have a mental or physical disability which stops them from earning a living to support themselves.

Other relatives dependent on you or your partner may include, for example, an aged, unmarried relative.

If you have dependants who are 18 years or over, please obtain a form 47A *Details of child or other dependent family member aged 18 years or over*. A form 47A must be completed for each dependant 18 years or over, whether migrating or not.

In certain circumstances you may be able to add a family member to your application after it has been lodged. See 'Family members' on page 38 for further information.

Parental responsibility (custody) requirement

The department will seek to ensure that allowing a child to migrate is not in contravention of Australia's international obligations in relation to the prevention of child abduction. If your application includes a child under 18 years and the child's other parent is not migrating with you or there is any other person who has the legal right to determine where the child can live, you will need to provide a completed form 1229 *Consent to grant an Australian visa to a child under the age of 18 years* or a statutory declaration from each of them giving permission for the child to migrate. Alternatively, you can provide a certified copy of a valid court order showing that you or your partner have the legal right to remove the child from the country.

Balance of Family test

Note: 'Children' includes adult children.

Balance of Family test

The 'Balance of Family' (BoF) test* requires that either:

- at least half of your children are eligible children; or
- the number of eligible children is greater than the greatest number of ineligible children who are usually resident in a particular overseas country.

An eligible child is an:

- Australian citizen; or
- Australian permanent resident who is usually resident in Australia; or
- eligible New Zealand citizen who is usually resident in Australia.

The test is designed to measure your family links to Australia compared to your family links elsewhere, and it is a legal requirement. This test does not assess dependency, or the quality of the parent/child relationship. It can not be waived for individual cases, even under compelling and compassionate circumstances.

***Note:** This test is not required in certain very limited circumstances, see pages 11–12.

Note: Step-children are only counted if they are:

- a child of the applicant's current partner; or
- under 18 years of age and a child of a former partner of the applicant, or a former partner of the applicant's current partner, and the applicant or the applicant's partner has a legal responsibility to look after the child.

Which children are counted?

The following children are counted in the BoF test:

- children of both parents, including children of previous marriages or de facto relationships of either parent, including adopted and step-children, and children in institutions;
- children of both parents, whether they are dependent or self-supporting, single, married or divorced; and
- children whose whereabouts are unknown, or cannot be verified, are counted as being in their parents' country of usual residence.

Which children are NOT counted?

Children are not counted in the BoF test if they:

- are deceased; or
- are removed from their parents' exclusive custody by adoption or court order; or
- are registered by the UNHCR as refugees and live in a camp operated by UNHCR; or
- live in a country where they suffer persecution or human rights abuse and cannot be reunited with their parents in another country.

Note: A person will have had exclusive custody of the child if that person had:

- the sole legal right to the daily care and control of the child; and
- the sole legal right and the sole legal responsibility to make decisions concerning the daily care and control of the child.

Children not counted as resident in Australia

Any child who is not an eligible child is taken to reside in either the overseas country where they usually reside or the overseas country in which they previously resided before travelling to Australia. If the child has no legal right to return to that country, they are taken to reside in their country of citizenship.

Children whose whereabouts are unknown, or cannot be verified, are counted as being in their last known country of usual residence.

Balance of Family test

Example of how the Balance of Family test is applied								
Total number of children	Number of eligible children in Australia	Number of ineligible children in countries other than Australia						Meets the test?
		A	B	C	D	E	F	
		1	1					
	Yes							
2	1	1						Yes
2	2	–						Yes
3	1	2						No
3	1	1	1					No
3	2	1						Yes
3	3	–						Yes
4	1	2	1					No
4	1	1	1	1				No
4	2	1	1					Yes
4	2	2						Yes
4	3	1						Yes
5	1	1	1	1	1			No
5	1	2	1	1				No
5	2	3						No
5	2	2	1					No
5	2	1	1	1				Yes
5	3	2						Yes
6	1	1	1	1	1	1		No
6	1	2	1	1	1			No
6	2	1	1	1	1			Yes
6	2	3	1					No
6	2	2	2					No
6	3	3						Yes
7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	No
7	1	2	4					No
7	2	1	1	1	1	1		Yes
7	2	2	1	1	1			No
7	2	3	1	1				No
7	2	2	2	1				No
7	3	1	1	1	1			Yes
7	3	4						No
7	3	3	1					No
7	4	3						Yes

Assurance of Support

On 1 July 2004, a new AoS scheme was implemented. Under this new scheme, Centrelink has responsibility for assessing all AoS applications. Where appropriate, this also includes managing bond lodgement. For more information about this new scheme, see Centrelink's website at www.centrelink.gov.au or Fact sheet 34 *Assurance of Support*, available on the department's website www.immi.gov.au/media/

If you have lodged an AoS prior to 1 July 2004 for your parent visa application, but have not been advised of the outcome, your assurer will be contacted by Centrelink to finalise the AoS.

What is an Assurance of Support?

An AoS is a commitment to provide financial support to the person applying to migrate so that the migrant will not have to rely on any government forms of support. It is also a legal commitment by a person to repay to the Commonwealth of Australia any recoverable social security payments made by Centrelink to those covered by the AoS. The AoS is in force from the date of the assuree's arrival in Australia or, for those applying within Australia, the date of grant of permanent residence.

For applicants applying for a Parent (Class AX–Migrant) or an Aged Parent (Class BP–Residence) visa, the period that the AoS is in force is 2 years. For applicants applying for a Contributory Parent (Class CA–Migrant) visa or a Contributory Aged Parent (Class DG–Residence) visa, the period that the AoS is in force is 10 years.

An AoS covers the main applicant and the family included in the application.

Your sponsor, or another person, will need to lodge an AoS before any application for parent migration can be finalised. The sponsor and the assurer do not need to be the same person. The provision of an AoS is a mandatory requirement for all permanent parent visas and cannot be waived in any circumstances.

Note: The AoS (including the AoS bond component) remains in place for the duration of the AoS period, regardless of whether or not the migrant has obtained a different visa (except where that visa is a humanitarian visa) or has become an Australian citizen. Once the relevant visa has been granted, the AoS can only be cancelled (and the AoS bond refunded) in very limited circumstances, and these are determined by Centrelink.

Who needs an Assurance of Support?

All applicants applying for a permanent visa in the parent or contributory parent category require an AoS.

Giving an Assurance of Support

The department will advise you in writing when you should ask your prospective assurer to lodge an AoS application with Centrelink. Your assurer should not lodge an AoS or pay the AoS bond until asked to do so by Centrelink.

For full details on who can give an assurance and the list of documents required to support this, please contact Centrelink on **132 850** from within Australia or **61 3 6222 3455** from outside Australia. Alternatively, refer to the AoS details on Centrelink's website at www.centrelink.gov.au

Costs and charges associated with your parent visa application

Listed below are some of the costs and charges which you should find out about before applying.

First visa application charge

Payment must accompany your application and is generally not refunded if the application is unsuccessful. This payment is known as the first instalment of the Visa Application Charge (1st VAC). To check the amount of the 1st VAC, see form 990i *Charges* available from the department's website www.immi.gov.au/allforms/990i.htm or check with the nearest office of the department.

If members of your family unit are included in your application, only one 1st VAC is payable for the entire family unit. If a separate application is made by them at a later date, a separate 1st VAC is payable.

If you are the holder of:

- a Contributory Parent (Class UT–Temporary) visa and are applying for a Contributory Parent (Class CA–Migrant) visa; or
- a Contributory Aged Parent (Class UU–Temporary) visa and are applying for a Contributory Aged Parent (Class DG–Residence) visa,

you pay a reduced 1st VAC.

If you:

- lodged an application for a Parent (Class AX–Migrant) visa before 27 June 2003; and
- apply for either a Contributory Parent (Class CA–Migrant) or a Contributory Parent (Class UT–Temporary) visa,

there is no 1st VAC.

If you:

- lodged an application for an Aged Parent (Class BP–Residence) visa before 1 July 2003; and
- apply for either a Contributory Aged Parent (Class DG–Residence) or a Contributory Aged Parent (Class UU–Temporary) visa,

there is no 1st VAC.

Method of payment

In Australia

To make a payment, please pay by credit card, debit card, bank cheque or money order made payable to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship. Debit card and credit card are the preferred methods of payment.

Outside Australia

Before making a payment outside Australia, please check with the Australian Government office where you intend to lodge your application as to what methods of payment and currencies they can accept and to whom the payment should be made payable.

Medical costs

You and members of your family unit may be required to undergo a medical, x-ray examination and HIV blood test. The cost of the examination is a matter between you and the doctor undertaking the examination.

Second visa application charge

Before your visa is granted, you must pay a second instalment of the Visa Application Charge (2nd VAC) for each person included in the application. However, there is a smaller 2nd VAC for a person under the age of 18 years and who is an applicant for a visa in the contributory parent category.

Note: If you are an applicant for:

- Contributory Parent (Class CA–Migrant) visa;
- Contributory Parent (Class UT–Temporary) visa;
- Contributory Aged Parent (Class DG–Residence) visa; or
- Contributory Aged Parent (Class UU–Temporary) visa,

the 2nd VAC is substantially more than for the Parent (Class AX–Migrant) or the Aged Parent (Class BP–Residence) visas.

Payment of the 2nd VAC is not required until after all other legal requirements have been met for the grant of the visa for which you applied. The charge must not be paid until after the department sends you a letter requesting its payment.

Note: The 2nd VAC for Contributory Parent visa applications is significant. Processing times for contributory parent category visas can vary. It is important that applicants ensure that they have available funds for the second VAC at all times in the application process as payment may be required at an earlier date than was originally anticipated at the time of visa application lodgement.

Assurance of Support bond

In most cases you will also need to lodge an AoS bond. The AoS process is managed by Centrelink. See 'Assurance of Support' (page 27) for further details.

Other costs

You should also be prepared to pay other costs associated with your application. These may include the cost of obtaining health checks or a character clearance from authorities in your own country or a character clearance from Australia if you have resided in Australia for at least 12 months or the cost of certified translations of some documents.

Annual adjustment of charges

First and 2nd VACs payable for both parent category and contributory parent category visas are subject to annual adjustment (ie. indexation) and these charges may increase at the beginning of each financial year (1 July).

It is important that you check the relevant 1st and 2nd VACs that are payable before you lodge an application for, or before you are granted, a parent visa. The amount of the 2nd VAC payable is based on the charges in place at the time your visa application was lodged, not when the 2nd VAC payment is requested by the department. You can find VACs in form 990i *Charges*, current and previous forms are available from the department's website www.immi.gov.au/allforms/

If you plan to apply for a temporary contributory parent category visa and then subsequently apply for the corresponding permanent contributory parent category visa, at time of temporary visa grant you will only need to pay a portion of the entire 2nd VAC for a permanent contributory parent category visa.

The remaining portion of the 2nd VAC payment for the permanent contributory parent category visa will be required just before grant of your permanent contributory parent visa. However, the 2nd VAC payable for the permanent visa will be based on when you lodged your permanent visa application, not when you lodged your temporary visa application. Consequently, the 2nd VAC will have been subject to annual adjustments (ie. indexation) in the intervening period between the time you lodged your application for the temporary contributory parent category visa and your application for the corresponding permanent contributory parent category visa.

Part 3 – Health and character

Health

Health standards

You and all dependent family members must meet strict health standards designed to protect Australia from high health risks and costs, and overuse of scarce health resources such as organs for transplant.

Medical examination

You will be asked to undertake an examination by a doctor, selected by Australian authorities. Usually, a chest x-ray, medical examination and possibly some laboratory or specialist tests and referral to Medical Officers of the Commonwealth for final decision will be required. This can be a lengthy process and costs will be your responsibility. All members of your immediate family must meet the standards for your application to be successful. Dependants who are not planning to migrate must also be examined.

Forms for your medical examination, together with directions to listed doctors, will be provided by staff processing your migration application. If you are pregnant, you are advised not to be x-rayed until after the birth of your baby, meaning that your application may not be finished until then. Alternatively, although not preferred by the Australian Government, you may care to discuss with your radiologist the use of a lead shielded x-ray.

Health conditions of concern

In view of the World Health Organisation's declaration of a global epidemic of tuberculosis, particular care is taken to screen for this disease including stringent treatment recommendations where signs of earlier infection, however small or old, are apparent.

Australia has one of the lowest rates of tuberculosis in the world and maintains one of the strictest regimes for screening and treatment. Detection of the disease will not lead to automatic rejection, but your application may only continue after recommended treatment and successful retesting.

Other health conditions of concern are those where a person is assessed by Australian authorities as requiring treatment, support or assistance that are considered to be in short supply, or that cost a significant amount. This may differ from treatment in other countries.

The department is authorised to collect information under the *Migration Act 1958*. The information you provide, including the results of tests for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), will be used to assess your health for an Australian visa. A positive HIV or other test result will not necessarily lead to a visa being denied. Your result(s) may be disclosed to the relevant Commonwealth, state and territory health agencies.

Doctors

Doctors may charge you fees in accordance with their usual practice. They may recommend that you undertake other treatment or specialist consultations. This may be in your own interest because listed doctors know what is required for the assessment of your examination results in Australia. Doctors must complete the examination form in English.

Basis for decision

A decision is made on, first, any detection of tuberculosis, however old or small, and then, on medical conditions which are likely to result in significant health treatment and community services costs in Australia or which may use treatment or services in short supply. Some allowance is made for normal health and welfare costs (calculated as a multiple of average annual costs for an Australian). When the Medical Officer of the Commonwealth is of the opinion that an applicant's costs are beyond these and are therefore significant, this generally leads to refusal. The cost assessment takes no regard of whether or not a person has or intends to take private health insurance or make other financial or nursing arrangements to lessen the claim on public funds.

There is no waiver provision for parent applicants who do not meet the health requirements.

Note: Applicants who are holders of:

- the Contributory Parent (Class UT–Temporary) visa and apply for the Contributory Parent (Class CA–Migrant) visa; or
- the Contributory Aged Parent (Class UU–Temporary) visa and apply for the Contributory Aged Parent (Class DG–Residence) visa,

will not be reassessed against health criteria, although health checks may be required in limited circumstances. These include where a person has spent a period of time in a high risk tuberculosis area since the grant of the temporary visa.

Character

To enter Australia, applicants must be of good character.

In order for the Australian Government to determine whether you are of good character, you may be asked to provide police certificates for each country you have resided in for 12 months or more over the last 10 years. In some instances, applicants may also be required to provide personal details to enable additional character checks to be undertaken.

You do not have to provide this information when you apply. You will be advised when it is required. Forms and further instructions will be provided by the office at which you lodged your application.

Note: Applicants who are holders of:

- the Contributory Parent (Class UT–Temporary) visa and apply for the Contributory Parent (Class CA–Migrant) visa; or
- the Contributory Aged Parent (Class UU–Temporary) visa and apply for the Contributory Aged Parent (Class DG–Residence) visa, who have travelled outside Australia after the grant of their temporary visa may be requested to undertake repeat or additional character checks.

Part 4 – Preparing your visa application

Forms

Complete and provide the relevant forms:

- form 47PA *Application for migration to Australia by a parent*;
- form 47PT *Application for migration to Australia by a Contributory Parent (Temporary) or Contributory Aged Parent (Temporary) visa holder*;
- form 40 *Sponsorship for migration to Australia*;
- form 47A *Details of child or other dependent family member aged 18 years or older* (for each dependant aged 18 years or older).

Other forms may be required and will be provided by the offices of the department at the appropriate time.

Copies of these forms are available on the department's website www.immi.gov.au/allforms/

Application charge

- Charges are listed in form 990i *Charges* which is available from the department's website www.immi.gov.au/allforms/

Other documents

Other documents you must provide

Other documents you must provide are listed on the following page.

You should provide all the documents necessary to support your claims to eligibility when you make your application.

If you cannot provide all the documents when you make your application, you should tell the department which documents are missing and when you expect to be able to provide them.

If you do not provide all the necessary documents, a decision may be made on the information you have provided. It is in your interest to support your application with as much information as possible at the time of application lodgement.

Certified copies

Do not supply original documents with your application. You should provide 'certified copies' of original documents. If the department requires an original document at any stage, we will ask for it. Please note that police clearances are the exception. You must provide original police clearances.

'Certified copies' are copies authorised, or stamped as being true copies of originals, by a person or agency recognised by the law of the country in which you currently reside. All Australian Government offices overseas have the facility to certify or witness documents and statutory declarations if necessary (this service may attract a charge).

In Australia, the copies can be certified by a person or agency before whom a statutory declaration may be made under the law of the state in which the declaration is made. Such a person could be: a magistrate, a justice of the peace, a commissioner for declarations, a commissioner for affidavits, a solicitor, a registered medical practitioner, a bank manager, a postal manager, a police officer, or a public servant (Commonwealth or state with at least 5 years of service). The Attorney General's department provides a detailed list on its website

www.ag.gov.au/Statutorydeclarations/Pages/Statutorydeclarationsignatorylist.aspx

English translations

Documents in languages other than English that you provide with your parent visa application must also be accompanied by an accurate English translation of each of those documents.

If you are applying for a parent visa in Australia and you are therefore having documents translated in Australia, it is recommended that you use a translator who has been accredited by the National Accreditation Authority for Translations and Interpreters (NAATI). Further information on NAATI is available from their website www.naati.com.au

If you are applying for a parent visa outside Australia and you are therefore having documents translated outside Australia, it is recommended that you use a translator who is professionally qualified.

DNA testing

DNA test results show whether 2 or more people are biologically related.

The department endorses the use of DNA testing as one possible means of providing evidence for claimed family relationships. DNA testing can be a useful option when documentary evidence of the claimed relationship is considered unreliable or is unavailable.

When a decision maker is not satisfied with available evidence of a relationship, he or she may suggest that an applicant undergo DNA testing as another means to establish a claimed relationship. The department will specify how the test is to be arranged. Any test obtained outside these requirements may not be accepted by the department.

Where a DNA test is requested, applicants for migrant visas must meet the full costs of DNA testing.

If you or your relative have been asked to undergo DNA testing and you have further questions, please contact the office which requested the test.

You must provide the following documents with your completed application form.

- If you are in Australia, certified copies of the passports or travel documents you, your partner and your dependants used to enter Australia, and of any passports held since then.
- Documents to prove your identity – a certified copy of your birth registration showing both parents' names. If you do not have a birth certificate or are unable to get one, you must provide a certified copy of the identification pages of at least one of the following documents:
 - passport;
 - family book showing both parents' names;
 - identification document issued by the government;
 - document issued by a court that verifies your identity.If you are unable to provide one of these documents, you must provide other acceptable evidence that you are who you claim to be.
- 4 recent passport sized photographs (45 mm x 35 mm) of yourself and any other applicant included in the application. These should be only of the head and shoulders, and should show the person facing the camera and against a plain background. You should print the name of the person on the back of each photograph.
- Certified copies of birth certificates of all your children or the family book, showing names of both parents.
- Certified copies of birth certificates of all persons included in the application.
- Certified copies of documents to verify custody and access arrangements for children under 18 years of age unless both parents of the child are included in the application.
- Evidence that your sponsor is an Australian citizen, permanent resident or eligible New Zealand citizen.
- If you or anyone included in the application is or has been married, certified copies of the marriage certificate(s).
- If anyone included in the application has been divorced or widowed, a certified copy of the divorce decree absolute or the death certificate of the deceased person (as appropriate).
- If anyone included in the application has changed his or her name (for example by marriage or deed poll), a certified copy of evidence of the name change.
- Evidence of your relationship to your sponsor.
- Evidence of where all your children reside (for example passport, or citizenship or residence certificate).
- If any child included in the application is adopted, certified copies of the adoption papers.
- If you have served in the armed forces of any country, certified copies of military service record or discharge papers.

Note: If you are a temporary contributory parent visa holder and are applying for the corresponding permanent contributory parent visa, you may not need to provide all the documents listed above. You should refer to form 47PT *Application for migration to Australia by a Contributory Parent (Temporary) or Contributory Aged Parent (Temporary) visa holder*.

Lodging your application

To make a valid parent visa application, you must lodge the application at the correct address. The preferred method of lodgement is by mailing your application to the Parent Visa Centre (PVC) as processing of parent visa applications has been centralised to this office.

You must send your application:

By mail to:

PVC
Locked Bag 7
NORTHBRIDGE WA 6865
AUSTRALIA

or by courier to:

PVC
Wellington Central
Level 3
836 Wellington Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005
AUSTRALIA

Enquiries about parent visa applications may be directed to:

Telephone: 61 1300 652 421

E-mail: parents@immi.gov.au

Part 5 – Processing parent visa applications

You must have a visa to travel to and stay in Australia

This information booklet explains how to make visa applications and how they are processed.

It is important that you read this information

It is important that you read this information – it may affect whether you are granted a visa or have your visa cancelled.

You should read all information and instructions about the class of visa you want. If you do not think you qualify for a visa, you may wish to reconsider whether to apply because any visa charge paid will not be refunded if you are unsuccessful.

While you may be asked to complete a number of steps during the processing of your application, it does not mean your application will be successful. Do not anticipate a successful outcome and sell your house or other property until you have been advised in writing that you have been granted a visa.

Where to get information

In Australia, you can get information about visas, charges and forms at offices of the department or you can call **131 881** (for the cost of a local call), or you can go to www.immi.gov.au. Outside Australia, you should go to www.immi.gov.au, or contact your nearest Australian Government office overseas.

How to apply for a visa

To make a valid parent visa application, you must:

- indicate the class of visa that you want;
- use the correct form;
- provide your residential address;
- pay the required charge (where applicable);
- satisfy any other requirements (for example, you may have to be outside Australia to apply for the visa); and
- withdraw any parent visa application that has not been decided by the department.

To make a valid parent visa application, you must lodge the application at the correct address. See, 'Lodging your application' on page 36.

You must also:

- complete the application in English;
- answer all questions truthfully – if you provide incorrect information or documents, your visa may not be granted; and
- provide originals or certified copies of any required documents unless the department advises otherwise.

Internet applications

Certain visas can be applied for via the internet. However, this is currently not the case for parent visa applications. Further information about internet applications can be found by going to www.immi.gov.au/e-visa/

Family members

Who you can include in an application

For most visas, family members (partners, dependent children or dependent relatives) can be included in your visa application. They are taken to apply at the same time and place, so only one first instalment of the Visa Application Charge (VAC) is paid.

If you are in Australia and applying for an onshore visa, you cannot include in the application any family members who are outside of Australia at the time you lodge your application. Similarly, if you are outside of Australia and applying for an offshore visa, you cannot include any family members who are in Australia at the time you lodge your application.

However, in some circumstances an applicant who is in Australia and applying for a permanent Contributory Parent (Class CA – Migrant) (subclass 143) visa may be able to include a partner or a dependent child in the application regardless of where the partner or dependent child are located or what visa they hold. For these cases, the partner or child should complete form 47PA and all forms should be lodged in Australia by the main applicant. For further information, please contact the Parent Visa Centre.

Who can be added to an application after it has been lodged

A child who is born after an application is made (but before it is decided) will be automatically included in the parent's application once the department is notified of the details of the newborn child.

A partner or dependent child can be added to an application after the application has been made but before it is decided. However, other dependent family members can only be added to an application in certain circumstances. In general, if the main applicant was in Australia at the time they applied for their visa, other family members may be added to the application as long as they were in Australia. If the applicant was outside of Australia at the time they lodged their visa application, other family members cannot be added to an existing application.

Charges

All family members must pay a second instalment of the VAC. The 2nd VAC is charged per person and is a significant amount for Contributory Parent category visas. The department has no discretion to waive or reduce this charge.

In most cases there is no provision to refund a 2nd VAC. The 2nd VAC can only be refunded in extremely limited circumstances, for example if before first entering Australia, the visa holder dies or has their visa cancelled.

All family members will also need to provide an AoS. See 'Part 2, Assurance of Support'.

Limitations on applications

If you are in Australia, you may be prevented from making further applications if, for example:

- you do not hold a substantive visa (which is any visa other than a bridging visa, a criminal justice visa or an enforcement visa) and have had a visa cancelled or refused since you last arrived in Australia;
- your last visa was granted on the condition that you would not be granted a substantive visa while you remain in Australia (eg. if you have an 8503 'No further stay' condition);
- you hold a sponsored visitor visa;
- you are in immigration detention.

In these cases, the department can provide you with information about which visas, if any, you can apply for.

More than one application

If you apply for more than one visa, the visa granted last will generally be the visa you have (and the visa granted first will no longer be valid). You can get advice about your situation from the office at which you lodged your application.

Communicating with the department

Communication with the department about your application should generally be in writing. You should send the communication to the office where you applied unless the department notifies you of another address.

Withdrawal of applications

You can withdraw your application by advising the department in writing at any time before a decision is made. Any charges that you paid at time of application are usually not refunded.

If you are already an applicant for a parent visa on which no decision has been made by the department, you must withdraw that existing application before you can apply for any other type of parent visa. If you have applied for review of a refusal decision in relation to a parent visa application and that review application has not been finalised, you must ensure that it has been withdrawn or finalised before another parent visa can be granted. See page 12 for full details.

You must correctly identify yourself

If you communicate with the department about your application, you must:

- include your name (as in your application);
- include your date of birth;
- include the department client number if it has been given to you or, if you do not have a client number, the department file number or the application receipt number;
- if your application is made outside Australia, include the name of the office where you applied.

Let the department know if you change your address

If you change your residential address for more than 14 days while your application is being processed, you must tell the department your new address and how long you will be there. The department will send communication about your application to the latest address for correspondence you have provided.

Communication about your application can be sent to another person that you have authorised, but you will be taken to have received the communication that the department sends to that person. The department must be informed (in writing) of any address change for either you or your authorised person.

You may authorise another person to receive all written communication about your application by completing the relevant section of your application form. See page 38 for further details about this option.

Extra information about your application

Additional information can be provided (in writing) at any time until a decision is made on your application. All relevant information is taken into account.

If you are invited to give additional information or comment on information, you will be given a date by which to do so. After that date, the department can continue processing your application. You cannot delay a decision by saying that you may or will give more information later.

Interviews

If you are invited to attend an interview, you must attend on the date and time agreed with the department. If you do not, the department can process your application and make a decision on the basis of the information it already has.

Invitation to comment

If another person gives the department information that could result in you being refused a visa, the department will generally give you an opportunity to comment on the information. You will need to comment by a set date.

Advise the department if your circumstances change

If any of your circumstances change, such that any answer in your application or information given to the department is no longer correct, you must inform the department (in writing) as soon as practicable.

You must continue to do this until a decision is made on your application (or, in the case of a visa granted outside Australia, until you travel to Australia and are cleared by immigration). Your visa may be cancelled if you give incorrect information or fail to advise the department that some information is no longer correct. However, if you advise the department of the correct information before your visa is granted (or in the case of a visa granted outside Australia, before you are immigration cleared), your visa cannot later be cancelled on the basis of that incorrect information.

Visa decisions

You will be notified by the department when a decision has been made on your application.

If you are refused a visa, you will be notified why you were refused and, if applicable, where you can apply for merits review of the decision. You will be notified of your time to seek review or your time to depart Australia.

When the department advises you, or a person you have authorised to act and receive communication on your behalf, of the decision on your visa application, you will be taken to have received the notification:

- 7 working days after the date of the letter (if sent from within Australia to an address within Australia);
or
- 21 days after the date of the letter (in any other case).

If the notification is handed to you, you will be taken to have been notified at that moment.

If the notification is faxed or e-mailed to you, you will be taken to have been notified at the end of that day.

You must abide by all conditions on your visa

If your visa is granted subject to conditions (for example, restrictions on work or study) you must abide by those conditions or your visa may be cancelled. If you wish to change those conditions or stay longer than your visa allows, contact the department for information about how to do this.

Initial entry date to Australia

If you are outside Australia when you are granted a parent visa, you will be required to make your first entry to Australia by a certain date. You will be told your initial entry date in the letter you receive from the department advising you of the grant of your parent visa. The purpose of this initial entry date is to ensure that persons migrate to Australia within a reasonable period of being granted a visa so that the planning levels for settler services for newly arrived migrants are sufficient. The date is usually tied to the earliest date of the validity periods of any health and character checks you had as part of the process of applying for a parent visa.

Before your parent visa is granted, if you know that the date will not allow you a reasonable period for you to finalise your affairs and make the necessary arrangements to travel to Australia, you must advise the departmental office that is processing your parent visa application of your circumstances and consideration will be given to a later initial entry date. However, you may need to undergo new health or character checks before your visa can be granted.

After your parent visa has been granted, an initial entry date cannot be changed and, unless exceptional and compelling circumstances can be proven, your visa may be cancelled. You would need to re-apply for a parent visa.

If you wish to leave Australia while your application is being processed, check with the department before you leave.

You should inform the department if you travel (either to or from Australia) during processing of your application. This is because your application may be refused if you are in the 'wrong place' when a decision is made:

- for most visas applied for in Australia, you must be in Australia when a decision is made; and
- for most visas applied for outside Australia, you must be outside Australia when a decision is made.

(In relation to parent migration, the only exception to this usual situation is where a person who is a Contributory Parent (Class UT–Temporary) holder applies for a Contributory Parent (Class CA–Migrant) visa. Such an applicant can be either in or outside of Australia at time of grant.)

In addition, if you have applied in Australia you must ensure before you leave Australia that you have a visa that permits you to return. Otherwise, you may not be able to return to Australia and, if your application is refused, you may not have a right of review.

Bridging visas

If you apply for an onshore parent visa in Australia, you will usually automatically be granted a bridging visa to keep you lawful, in case your previous visa ceases before a decision is made on your parent visa application. It will also keep you lawful if your visa application is refused and you seek merits review of that decision.

However, if you wish to travel overseas, you will need to apply for a specific bridging visa to allow you to return to Australia (unless you already have another visa which allows you to return to Australia).

If you withdraw an existing parent visa application, any bridging visas you also hold will automatically cease 28 days after the application has been withdrawn. If you intend to travel and currently hold either a Bridging visa A or a Bridging visa B, you should apply for a new Bridging visa B to allow you to re-enter Australia.

Options for receiving written communications

You may authorise another person to receive all communications, both written and electronic, about your application with the department. You will be taken to have received any documents sent to that person as if they had been sent to you.

To do this you will need to complete the section on the application form with the heading *Options for receiving written communications* and form 956 *Advice by a migration agent/exempt person of providing immigration assistance* if appointing a migration agent/exempt person to be the authorised recipient, or form 956A *Appointment or withdrawal of an authorised recipient* if appointing an authorised recipient that is not a migration agent/exempt person. For an explanation of what a migration agent or exempt person or authorised recipient can do please read the sections below.

Authorised recipient information

An authorised recipient is someone you appoint to receive written communications about your application with the department.

All written communication about your application will be sent to your authorised recipient, unless you indicate that you wish to have health and/or character information sent directly to you.

The department will communicate with the most recently appointed authorised recipient as you may only appoint one authorised recipient at any time for a particular application.

Migration agent information

A migration agent is someone who can:

- advise you on the visa that may best suit you;
- tell you the documents you need to submit with your application;
- help you fill in the application and submit it; and
- communicate with the department on your behalf.

If you appoint a migration agent, the department will assume that the migration agent will be your authorised recipient, unless you indicate otherwise.

Your migration agent will be the person with whom the department will discuss your application and from whom it will seek further information when required.

Exempt person information

The following people do not have to be a registered migration agent in order to provide immigration assistance, but they must not charge a fee for their service:

- a close family member (spouse, de facto partner, child, parent, brother or sister);
- a sponsor or nominator for this visa application;
- a member of parliament or their staff;
- an official whose duties include providing immigration assistance (eg. a Legal Aid provider);
- a member of a diplomatic mission, consular post or international organisation.

Consent to communicate electronically

The department may use a range of means to communicate with you. However, electronic means such as fax or e-mail will only be used if you indicate your agreement to receiving communication in this way. The department may also contact people by mail, telephone or in person. However, if you have an e-mail address, this may speed up communication.

To process your application, the department may need to communicate with you about sensitive information, for example, health, police checks, financial viability and personal relationships. Electronic communications, unless adequately encrypted, are not secure and may be viewed by others or interfered with. If you agree to the department communicating with you by electronic means, the details you provide will only be used by the department for the purpose for which you have provided them, unless there is a legal obligation or necessity to use them for another purpose, or you have consented to use for another purpose. They will not be added to any mailing list.

The Australian Government accepts no responsibility for the security or integrity of any information sent to the department over the internet or by other electronic means.

If you authorise another person to receive documents on your behalf and they wish to be contacted electronically, their signature is required to indicate their consent to this form of communication.

Australian Government Websites

assisting business entry and skilled migration

Australian Government

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

www.immi.gov.au/business/title.htm

Including information on:

- business entry and skilled migration
- contacts for Australian missions overseas
- business trips to Australia

With links to:

- Australian missions overseas
- Australian Government websites
- Useful business websites

Business Entry Point

www.business.gov.au

Australian Taxation Office

www.ato.gov.au

State/Territory Governments

Australian Capital Territory

ACT Government

www.business.act.gov.au

New South Wales

Department of State and Regional Development

www.business.nsw.gov.au

Northern Territory

Department of Industries and Business

Enquiries to: migration.dib@nt.gov.au

Queensland

Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry

www.migration.qld.gov.au

South Australia

Immigration South Australia

www.immigration.sa.gov.au

Tasmania

Tasmanian Government

www.tas.gov.au

Victoria

State Government of Victoria

www.liveinvictoria.vic.gov.au

Western Australia

Small Business Development Corporation

www.sbdc.com.au

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