



Australian Government

Department of Immigration
and Citizenship

Application for sponsorship under general skilled migration

Form

1277

Who should use this form?

Only persons sponsoring a relative for a:

- Skilled – Sponsored (subclass 176 or 886) visa; or
- Skilled – Regional Sponsored (subclass 475 or 487) visa;

should use this form. For detailed information about each visa subclass, including application requirements see www.immi.gov.au/skilled/ or Booklet 6, *General Skilled Migration*.

Booklet 6 and all forms referred to in this document can be found on the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (the department) website www.immi.gov.au/allforms/ or are available from any Australian overseas mission or office of the department in Australia.

How to fill in this form?

Important – Please read this information carefully before you complete your application. Once you have completed your application we strongly advise that you keep a copy for your records.

Note: While some information relates specifically to certain visa subclasses, some information is of a generic nature.

If you are satisfied, after reading the information below, that you are eligible to sponsor an applicant for a General Skilled Migration (GSM) visa you should fill in the form:

- print clearly using a blue or black pen;
- answer all questions truthfully and completely;
- tick the appropriate box for your answer or write your answer in the space provided;
- write 'N/A' if a question is not applicable to you.

If there is not enough space on the form to answer any question in full, please attach additional sheets of paper with the details.

Applying online

The department encourages applicants and their sponsors to apply online. For information on how to apply online go to the department's website www.immi.gov.au/e_visa/

If your relative has lodged their visa application online you must complete your sponsorship online.

Integrity of application

The department is committed to maintaining the integrity of the visa and citizenship programs. Please be aware that if you provide us with fraudulent documents or claims, this may result in your relative's application being refused and subject to a 3 year bar in relation to visas which the fraud criterion applies.

Who is eligible to sponsor a relative?

To sponsor an applicant for a GSM visa you must be:

- an Australian citizen, permanent resident or eligible New Zealand citizen;
- aged 18 years or over; and
- usually resident in Australia.

If you are related to the partner of the main applicant, your relative must be included in the visa application as a visa applicant.

'Partner' means your spouse or de facto partner (including same-sex partners).

Sponsoring a Skilled – Sponsored visa applicant

If you are sponsoring your relative for a Skilled – Sponsored (subclass 176 or 886) visa you must be related to the main applicant or their partner in one of the following ways:

- a parent or step-parent;
- a child or a step-child, who is not a dependent child of the sponsor;
- a brother or sister, or a step-brother or step-sister;
- an aunt or uncle, or a step-aunt or step-uncle;
- a nephew or niece, or a step-nephew or step-niece.

Sponsoring a Skilled – Regional Sponsored visa applicant

If you are sponsoring your relative for a Skilled – Regional Sponsored (subclass 475 or 487) visa you must be related to the main applicant or their partner in one of the following ways:

- a parent or step-parent;
- a child or a step-child, who is not a dependent child of the sponsor;
- a brother or sister, or a step-brother or step-sister;
- an aunt or uncle, or a step-aunt or step-uncle;
- a nephew or niece, or a step-nephew or step-niece;
- a grandparent or first cousin.

You must also be usually resident in a designated area of Australia. For current information on what is a designated area go to the department's website www.immi.gov.au/skilled/

How to sponsor your relative

Complete this form and send it to the person you are sponsoring. The department may be able to finalise an application earlier if this form is completed and lodged at the time of the application with the Adelaide Skilled Processing Centre.

By mail:

Adelaide Skilled Processing Centre
Department of Immigration and Citizenship
GPO Box 1638
ADELAIDE SA 5001
AUSTRALIA

By courier:

Adelaide Skilled Processing Centre
Department of Immigration and Citizenship
4th Floor
55 Currie Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000
AUSTRALIA

Your sponsorship undertaking

The undertaking you must sign in **Part G Sponsorship undertaking** of this form states that you agree to provide adequate accommodation and financial assistance as required to meet your relative's reasonable living needs during their first 2 years in Australia (following grant of the visa if applying in Australia or 2 years from the date of arrival). This includes providing financial and other support, such as child care, that will enable your relatives to attend appropriate English language classes. By signing the undertaking, you also agree to provide information and advice to help your relative settle in Australia. This information and advice should include telling your relative about employment in Australia.

Your relative and their partner and adult dependants should assess their own employment prospects in Australia, whether or not they intend to work immediately on arrival.

It is important that your relative, their partner and their adult dependants understand that a good standard of spoken and written English is essential if they want to work in Australia. Without these skills, it will be very difficult for them to gain employment at a level equal to their job skills and qualifications.

What documents do you need?

The office processing your sponsorship application will need proof of your relationship to your relative.

Copies of documents need to be certified as true copies of the original by a justice of the peace, commissioner for declarations or a person authorised to witness statutory declarations. Alternatively, a registered migration agent can certify the documents.

It will help your relative's application if they have certified copies of any documents that confirm the relationship. For example, if you are sponsoring your brother or sister, your relative should send a certified copy of your full birth certificate showing details of your parents.

Your relative may wish to provide a diagram of your family relationship.

If you are sponsoring your relative for a Skilled – Regional Sponsored (subclass 475 or 487) visa, your relative will also need to provide evidence that you are usually resident in a designated area of Australia. There is a table in **Part D** of this form that will help your relative work out if they have enough evidence to satisfy the decision makers that you meet this requirement.

If you have changed your name since birth (eg. through marriage), your relative should also provide evidence of this.

Your relative will also need to send evidence of your Australian citizenship or permanent resident status in Australia or proof that you are an eligible New Zealand citizen*.

A certified copy of your citizenship certificate or, if Australian-born, a full certified copy of your birth certificate would be evidence of your Australian citizenship. If you are unsure about the documents needed to do this, contact the nearest Australian overseas mission or office of the department in Australia.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL SPONSORS

Two-year wait for social security payments

New migrants to Australia have to wait 2 years after gaining permanent residency before they can get most social security payments, including unemployment benefits, sickness allowance, Austudy income support payments for students and a number of other payments. The two-year wait starts from the date of arrival in Australia or the date of grant of a permanent visa, whichever is the later. It is therefore very important that you understand that migrants are expected to support themselves and their immediate family members from their own resources and from the support they receive from sponsors.

Sponsors should talk to their relatives about the costs of living in Australia and work out how much assistance their relatives might need. Sponsors should think carefully about whether they are able and willing to provide this support before undertaking the sponsorship.

Information on services to assist newly arrived migrants with settling in Australia is also available on the department's 'Settling in Australia' website www.immi.gov.au/living-in-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 **Part F Options for receiving written communications** and form 956 *Appointment of a migration agent or exempt agent or other authorised recipient*. For an explanation of what a migration agent or exempt agent or authorised recipient can do please read the sections below.

To change or end the appointment of your migration agent or exempt agent or authorised recipient you must promptly advise the department in writing. You can do this by using form 956 *Appointment of a migration agent or exempt agent or other authorised recipient*.

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

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;
- communicate with the department on your behalf.

If you appoint a migration agent, the department will assume that your 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.

You are not required to use a migration agent. However, if you use a migration agent, the department encourages you to use a registered migration agent. Registered agents are bound by the Migration Agents Code of Conduct, which requires them to act professionally in their clients' lawful best interests.

Immigration assistance

A person gives immigration assistance to you if he or she uses, or claims to use, his or her knowledge or experience in migration procedure to assist you with your visa application, request for ministerial intervention, cancellation review application, sponsorship or nomination.

In Australia a person may only lawfully give immigration assistance if he or she is a registered migration agent or is exempt from being registered. Only registered migration agents may receive a fee or reward for providing immigration assistance.

If an unregistered person in Australia, who is not exempt from registration, gives you immigration assistance they are committing a criminal offence and may be prosecuted.

Migration agents in Australia

Migration agents in Australia must be registered with the Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority (Office of the MARA) unless they are exempt from registration.

Migration agents outside Australia

Migration agents who operate outside Australia do not have to be registered. The department may give some overseas agents an ID number. This number does not mean that they are registered.

Note: Some Australian registered migration agents operate overseas.

Exempt agents

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.

Further information on migration agents

Information on migration agents, including a list of registered migration agents, is available on the Office of the MARA website www.mara.gov.au

You can also access information about migration agents on the department's website www.immi.gov.au

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 on the form to indicate their consent to this form of communication.

About the information you give

Warning: Under the *Migration Act 1958*, there are penalties for deliberately giving false or misleading information.

The department is authorised to collect information provided on this form under Part 2 of the *Migration Act 1958* 'Control of Arrival and Presence of Non-citizens'. The information provided may be used for purposes relating to the administration of the Migration Act, for example, to assist migrants with settling in Australia, to monitor the conduct of migration agents or for ensuring compliance with the Migration Act.

The information provided on this form, including any information on your health, will be used to assess your health for an Australian visa and may be disclosed to the relevant Commonwealth, state and territory health agencies and examining doctor(s).

Form 1071i *Health requirement for permanent entry to Australia* provides additional information on Australia's permanent visa health requirements. Form 1163i *Health requirement for temporary entry to Australia* has information on Australia's temporary visa health requirements. Forms 1071i and 1163i are available at offices of the department or from the department's website www.immi.gov.au/allforms/

The information provided might also be disclosed to agencies who are authorised to receive information relating to adoption, border control, business skills, citizenship, education, employment, health assessment, health insurance, health services, law enforcement, payment of pensions and benefits, taxation, review of decisions and regulation of migration agents.

The collection, access, storage, use and disclosure by the department of the information you provide in this form is governed by the *Privacy Act 1988* and, in particular, by the 11 Information Privacy Principles. The information form 993i *Safeguarding your personal information*, available from the department's website, gives details of agencies to which your personal information might be disclosed.

Home page **www.immi.gov.au**

General enquiry line Telephone **131 881** during business hours in Australia to speak to an operator (recorded information available outside these hours).
If you are outside Australia, please contact your nearest Australian mission.

Please keep these information pages for your reference



Please use a pen, and write neatly in English using BLOCK LETTERS.

Tick where applicable

Part A – About the visa applicant(s) you are sponsoring

1 How many people are you sponsoring in this application?

Adults

Children

2 What visa are they applying for?

Offshore

Skilled – Sponsored (subclass 176)

Skilled – Regional Sponsored (subclass 475)

Onshore

Skilled – Sponsored (subclass 886)

Skilled – Regional Sponsored (subclass 487)

3 Details of the main applicant you are sponsoring

Family name

Given names

Client file or Transaction Reference Number (if known)

4 Sex Male Female

5 Date of birth

6 Does the main applicant have a partner who is also an applicant for the visa?

No

Yes Partner's full name

Family name

Given names

Sex Male Female

Date of birth

7 List here all the dependent family members who are included in this application

1. Family name

Given names

Sex Male Female

Date of birth

2. Family name

Given names

Sex Male Female

Date of birth

3. Family name

Given names

Sex Male Female

Date of birth

4. Family name

Given names

Sex Male Female

Date of birth

5. Family name

Given names

Sex Male Female

Date of birth

6. Family name

Given names

Sex Male Female

Date of birth

If you have more than 6 dependent family members that are included in this application, please attach details to the back of this application form.

Part B – About you (the sponsor)

8 Your full name

Family name

Given names

9 Other names you are, or have been, known by
(including name at birth, previous married names, aliases)

Reason for change

10 Sex Male Female

11 Date of birth

12 Country of birth

13 Citizenship

14 Date of arrival in Australia

15 Date of permanent residence
(if different from date of arrival)

16 Date you became an Australian citizen
(if applicable)

17 Are you related to the main applicant (identified in Question 3) or their partner (identified in Question 6)?

Main applicant

Partner

18 What is their relationship to you?

19 Provide details of your eligibility to be a sponsor, by completing the following and attaching documentary evidence:

Australian or New Zealand passport number

Australian citizenship certificate number

Australian birth certificate number

Visa Evidence number (Australian permanent resident)

20 Current residential address

Note: If your residential address is not in Australia, please attach a statement at the end of this form explaining how you meet the requirement that you are usually resident in Australia.

 POSTCODE

21 Address for correspondence
(If the same as your residential address, write 'AS ABOVE')

 POSTCODE

22 Your telephone numbers

Office hours

After hours

23 Do you agree to the department communicating with you by fax or e-mail?

No

Yes ► Give details

Fax number

E-mail address

24 Occupation

25 Provide the name of your employers and dates of employment for the last 2 years

1. Employer

From to

2. Employer

From to

26 Have you received Newstart Allowance, Parenting Payment, Youth Allowance, Widow Allowance or Special Benefit during the last 2 years?

No

Yes ► Provide dates

From to

From to

From to

27 If you are normally dependent on your partner's income, provide the name of their employers and dates of employment for the last 2 years.

1. Employer

From / / to / /

2. Employer

From / / to / /

3. Employer

From / / to / /

28 If you are normally dependent on your partner's income, have they received Newstart Allowance, Parenting Payment, Youth Allowance, Widow Allowance or Special Benefit during the last 2 years?

No

Yes Provide dates

From / / to / /

From / / to / /

From / / to / /

29 Are you currently receiving any other form of social security payment or pension or Austudy income support payment (including any benefits received from a country outside Australia)?

No

Yes Provide details

30 Have you lived in any other town or city over the last 2 years other than the one you are living in now?

No

Yes Provide details

1. City/town POSTCODE

From / / to / /

2. City/town POSTCODE

From / / to / /

About your family

31 Do you have any dependants other than your partner?

No

Yes Are they children or other dependants?

Children How many?

Other Specify (eg. retired parents in Australia or overseas)

32 Relationship status

Married Separated Never married or
 Engaged Divorced been in a de facto
 De facto Widowed relationship

33 If you are currently married, or in a de facto relationship, provide details of your partner

Partner's full name

Family name

Given names

Sex Male Female

Date of birth / /

Date of marriage or date when de facto relationship commenced / /

Part D – Skilled – Regional Sponsored visa sponsors

44 Do you currently live in a designated area?

No ▶ If you are not usually resident in a designated area of Australia you are not eligible to sponsor an applicant for a Skilled – Regional Sponsored visa

Yes ▶ Please provide documents as listed below

You must provide at least 4 of the documents listed below to show that you usually reside in a designated area.
(Tick the documents you are providing.)

Rental agreement for your current residential address	<input type="checkbox"/>
Driver's licence showing your current residential address	<input type="checkbox"/>
Letter from your employer confirming your employment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Correspondence from federal or state government agency or instrumentality	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electoral Commission notice	<input type="checkbox"/>
Letter from school confirming enrolment of your children	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vehicle registration papers for your current residential address	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gas or power bills for your current residential address	<input type="checkbox"/>
Telephone accounts for your current residential address	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bank statements for your current residential address	<input type="checkbox"/>
Home purchase agreement showing your current residential address	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other – You may provide other documents that confirm your place of residence	<input type="checkbox"/>

Note: If the documents which you provide are in the name of your partner, you **must** provide certified evidence of your relationship.

Part E – Assistance with this form

45 Did you receive assistance in completing this form?

No ▶ Go to Part F

Yes ▶ Please give details of the person who assisted you

Title: Mr Mrs Miss Ms Other

Family name

Given names

Address

<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
POSTCODE

Telephone number or daytime contact

COUNTRY CODE	AREA CODE	NUMBER
(<input type="text"/>)	(<input type="text"/>)	<input type="text"/>

Mobile/cell

46 Is the person an agent registered with the Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority (Office of the MARA)?

No

Yes ▶ Go to Part F

47 Is this person/agent in Australia?

No ▶ Go to Part F

Yes

48 Did you pay the person/agent and/or give a gift for this assistance?

No

Yes

Part F – Options for receiving written communications

49 All written communications about this application should be sent to:
(Tick one box only)

Myself ▶ All written communications will be sent to the address for communications that you have provided in this form.

OR

Authorised recipient

OR

Migration agent

OR

Agent exempt from registration

You must complete form 956 *Appointment of a migration agent or exempt agent or other authorised recipient* and attach it to this application form. Form 956 is available from the department's website
www.immi.gov.au

Part G – Sponsorship undertaking

WARNING: Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.

50 I agree:

- to provide information and advice to help my relatives settle in Australia;
- to ensure that adequate accommodation is available for my relatives in Australia or, if necessary, to provide accommodation for up to 2 years from arrival in Australia or the date of visa grant if applying in Australia;
- to provide financial assistance as required to meet their reasonable living needs for up to 2 years from arrival in Australia, or the date of visa grant if applying in Australia, if necessary;
- to provide support as required to enable them to attend appropriate English language courses;
- I agree to attend an interview (if requested by the department) in relation to my relative's application; and
- I will inform the department in writing if I withdraw my support for my relative before this application is finalised.

I am aware that any person who provides false or misleading information or who deceives or misleads or who presents a forged document to an Australian Government official may be prosecuted.

I am aware that if false or incorrect information is given on this form, the application of the person(s) I am sponsoring may be refused, be subject to a 3 year ban in relation to visas to which the fraud criterion applies, and/or any visa granted to that person may be liable to cancellation.

I authorise Centrelink to give information about me, relevant to my offer to provide this sponsorship, to the department.

I authorise the department to obtain information relevant to my offer to provide this sponsorship from other government agencies or organisations. The agencies/organisations may include:

- federal, state or territory government agencies;
- federal, state or territory law enforcement agencies;
- state or territory housing authorities (including private landlords);
- local government authorities;
- financial institutions;
- educational institutions;
- private businesses (including telecommunication and internet service providers, insurance companies); and
- any other relevant businesses or agencies.

I declare that the information I have supplied in this form is complete, correct and up-to-date in every detail.

Signature of sponsor

Date

DAY	MONTH	YEAR
/	/	

Your partner's approval

If you are sponsoring a relative and you are currently married or living in a de facto relationship, your partner must complete this part.

51 I give my consent to the above arrangements and agree to support my partner in fulfilling the responsibilities of the sponsorship.

I authorise Centrelink to give information about me, relevant to my partner's offer to provide this sponsorship, to the department.

Signature of partner

Date

DAY	MONTH	YEAR
/	/	

We strongly advise that you keep a copy of your application and all attachments for your records.