DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION & MULTICULTURAL & INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
"FRONT-END LOADING YOUR PARTNER VISA APPLICATION"
Notes for your Guidance

WHAT IS FRONT-END LOADING?

A 'front-end loaded' visa application is simply one in which all information that is required to decide the application has been provided when the application is first lodged.

While every application is different and some applications may require further information or processing before a decision can be made, there is core information that needs to be provided for all applications.

BENEFITS OF FRONT-END LOADING

The main benefit of front-end loading your visa application is that your visa application is likely to be processed more quickly than the average processing times advertised on the London Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMIA) website (www.australia.org.uk).

Please note, however, that there is no guarantee that a visa will be granted simply because you have front-end loaded your application. A visa can only be granted if all relevant legislative criteria have been met.

Also, there is no guarantee that every front-end loaded application will be finalised ahead of average processing times because some applications require further information before a decision can be made.

PARTNER VISA APPLICATIONS

The current average processing time for the following partner visa applications at the London DIMIA office is four (4) months:

- 300 (Prospective Marriage);
- 309 (Spouse (Provisional));
- 310 (Interdependency (Provisional));
- 100 (Spouse); and
- 110 (Interdependency).

PARTNER VISA REQUIREMENTS

There are three main requirements that need to be met when you apply for a partner visa. These pertain to your:

- relationship with your sponsor;
- health; and
- character.

Separate information on each of the above requirements is provided:

- in the Partner Migration Booklet (No. 1);

- the Partner migration pack (which includes the Partner Migration Booklet and information about lodging your application in London); and
- the London DIMIA website (www.australia.org.uk).

Note: The current Partner Migration Booklet (design date 07/02) indicates that if you are applying for a partner visa outside Australia, you do NOT have to provide health and character information at time of lodgement and that you will be advised when this information is required. Please disregard this instruction, as this booklet is currently being amended to encourage the front-end loading of partner visa applications.

HOW TO LODGE A FRONT-END LOADED PARTNER VISA APPLICATION

Applications must be lodged by post to the address below. If all required information is provided at time of lodgement, it is our aim to make an initial assessment of your application within 3 working days.

Migration Section
Migration Branch
Australian High Commission
Strand
London WC2B 4LA

Please refer to the Document Checklist in Part G of the application form 47SP (Application for migration to Australia by a partner) and make sure that every relevant document is provided at time of lodgement.

In addition, please refer to the attached London Partner Visa Application Checklist and make sure that every relevant document is provided at time of lodgement.

WHEN TO LODGE YOUR FRONT-END LOADED PARTNER VISA APPLICATION

If a Prospective Marriage visa is granted, it is valid for 9 months from the date of grant, during which time you are expected to travel to Australia, marry your sponsor and apply for the second stage of your spouse visa application.

If a (temporary) Provisional Spouse or Interdependency visa is granted, it is valid until a decision is made on the permanent Partner visa application.

If a (permanent) Spouse or Interdependency visa is granted, it is valid for 5 years from the date of grant for travel to and entry into Australia (NB: If, after 5 years from date of visa grant, you want to travel outside Australia and remain a permanent resident of Australia, you will need to obtain a resident return visa in order to re-enter Australia at a later date).

However, as with all Partner visa applications, if a visa is granted, a condition will be attached to the visa that specifies that the visa holder must enter Australia by a particular date. This is called the "initial entry date" and is linked to the validity of your health and character checks (which is usually one year).Therefore, please bear all of the above in mind when deciding what would be the best time to lodge your Partner visa application in relation to your own particular plans.