



Factsheet: Partner Visas - Requests for Priority Processing

Partner visa program

The Australian Government promotes family unity, social cohesion, and cultural diversity. The Partner visa program allows partners of eligible sponsors to migrate to Australia, delivering positive social outcomes for our community and our nation.

Order for considering and deciding Partner visa applications

Partner visa applications are processed according to *Ministerial Direction 117* (Direction 117). Highest priority is given to onshore Partner visa (subclass 820 and 801) applications. Lower priority is given to offshore Prospective Marriage visa (subclass 300) and Partner visa (subclass 309 and 100) applications. Applications with lower priority are likely to experience longer processing times.

For more information, see <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/visa-processing-priorities/family-visa>

Partner visa processing times

Applications are generally assessed in the order in which they are received within each priority group, in line with Direction 117.

Processing times are published monthly on the department's website at: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/global-visa-processing-times>

The visa processing times guide gives an indication of how long a visa application may take to process. The estimated timeframe does not guarantee your application will be finalised within this timeframe. The time it takes to decide each visa application depends on factors that may include the quality and completeness of the application, an applicant's responsiveness to requests for information, and the complexity involved in assessing relationship, character, health and security requirements.

All Partner visa applicants must meet all visa requirements before a visa can be granted. In addition, where checks are carried out with other government agencies or overseas entities the department has no control over the time taken to complete these checks.

We are unable to report on the progress of individual applications. You can check the status of your application through ImmiAccount at: <https://online.immi.gov.au/lusc/login>

Priority processing

In accordance with Direction 117, we may prioritise assessment of a Partner visa application in limited circumstances if:

- the application involves **special circumstances of a compassionate nature**; and
- there are **compelling reasons** to prioritise it ahead of other applications.

It is the nature of the Partner visa program that a large number of applications have a compassionate or compelling element. Therefore, to receive priority over other applicants who applied before you, your circumstances must be an exception to the circumstances faced by the majority of Partner visa applicants.

Requests for priority processing from Partner visa applicants are very common, particularly from regions of the world where there is conflict or natural disaster. When situations arise where there are many people with

similar compassionate and compelling circumstances, applications within this group will be assessed in the order in which they were received. Your compassionate circumstances and compelling reasons must set you apart from other applicants for you to be given priority within this group.

Circumstances that are **not** considered compelling or compassionate include, but are not limited to:

- financial hardship or other personal financial reasons, for example obtaining a bank loan, or purchasing a property
- intending to start a family, or pregnancy
- pain and suffering of separation
- employment
- pre-arranged wedding plans
- your health assessment, police certificate(s) or passport are due to expire.

Things you need to know

- If you hold a temporary Partner visa (subclass 309 or 820), two years **must** have passed since you applied for your Partner visas for you to be eligible to be assessed for the permanent visa. If you are not yet eligible for the permanent visa we **cannot** consider your application for priority processing.
- Do not request priority processing if your relationship has ended or your sponsor has died. Instead, please complete the 'Notification of Relationship Cessation' form in ImmiAccount at: <https://online.immi.gov.au/lusc/login>. For more information, see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/change-in-situation/relationship-ended>
- We will only consider requests for priority processing if you have submitted **all** supporting documents and information with your application. You can check what documents and information are required for your visa through ImmiAccount.
- Attach evidence of special circumstances of a compassionate nature and compelling reasons to support your request for priority processing to ImmiAccount. Most requests for priority processing cannot be approved. Without clear claims and evidence provided at the same time as your request, your request is not able to be considered.
- There is no guarantee that we will give your application a higher priority. This is because other applicants might have equally or more compelling and compassionate circumstances.
- If we give your application a higher priority, this does not guarantee your visa will be granted. You **must** meet all visa requirements, including if you are in a conflict or natural disaster zone.
- Do not submit multiple requests, call or email the department, as this will not speed up processing.
- If your request for priority processing is declined, further requests will not be considered or responded to unless there has been a **significant change in your circumstances** and you provide **new evidence** to support your claim.

How to request priority processing

Use the **Partner processing enquiry form** on the department's website at: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/departmental-forms/online-forms/partner-processing-enquiry-form>

- select ***'I want to request priority processing'***
- attach a **signed statement** outlining the reasons for requesting priority processing

Make sure you:

- attach evidence to support your request for priority processing to ImmiAccount
- have attached all the required supporting documents for your visa application to ImmiAccount.

Further information

If you need more information, visit the department's website at: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/partner-visa-frequently-asked-questions>