



This sheet provides information about applying for Partner migration (including spouse, fiancé, de-facto and interdependency relationships) in the Philippines. For general information about partner migration, see <http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/booklets/1127.pdf>

How to Apply

1. Obtain forms and information - Download the migration information package, visa application form **47SP** and sponsorship form **40SP** at the DIAC website. See:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/applicationforms/index.htm> free of charge. Or obtain a copy from either the Visa Information and Application (VIA) Centre or the Call Centre (for a small cost).

2. Complete the forms - Read all the provided information. The visa applicant should complete and sign the visa application form and the sponsor should complete and sign the sponsorship form.

3. Gather all supporting documents (see the Manila Partner Migration Checklist), noting that it is an applicant's responsibility to provide evidence that they meet the criteria for the grant of a visa.

4. Undergo health examinations - The visa applicant and all dependent children can undergo health checks with a Panel Doctor prior to application – no Embassy referral is necessary (see [Info Sheet 06](#)). Applicants may also choose to undergo health checks after lodging their application, however early health checks reduce visa processing times.

5. Lodge the application - You may either contact the Call Center or attend the Visa Information and Application (VIA) center to arrange for your application to be forwarded to the Embassy. Attach the completed Partner Migration Checklist, indicating the documents you have included with your application. Pay the visa application fee at the time of lodgement. The only acceptable forms of payment are:

- a Manager's Cheque in Philippine Pesos made payable to the "Australian Embassy" (See [Info Sheet 03](#) for current fees).
- a receipt for prior payment at an Immigration office in Australia in Australian Dollars.

Phone the Call Center to arrange for a courier to pick up your application and supporting documents, by using one of the following numbers:

1909-3622779 (PLDT/Smart/Touchcard subscribers)
1900-3622779 (Globe/Innove/Touch mobile subscribers)
1903-3622779 (BayanTel subscribers).

- These numbers are only available to telephones with NDD access, or by calling 109 on a PLDT phone for operator assisted connection. Calls will be billed at PhP 32 per minute.
- These numbers are available to Globe and Touch Handyphone mobiles at the same call rate.
- For access from Australia please call **63 2 843 6293**. Calls will be billed at a flat rate of AUD\$10.00. Payment can only be made by credit card.

The Call Center operates Monday to Friday from 6am to 8pm and Saturday from 8am to 6pm.

Alternatively, **the VIA Center** is located at:

Unit 901, 9/F One Corporate Plaza
845 Antonio Arnaiz Ave (Pasay Rd)
Makati City.

The Center opening hours are:

8:30am to 3pm, Monday to Friday - For lodging applications

8:30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday – For general information

8:30am to 12noon, Saturday - For lodging applications and general information.

Applications may be lodged in-person at the VIA Center, for a small fee. Please note that mailed applications cannot be accepted at the VIA Center.

Applications may also be lodged by mail to the Embassy, however we do not recommend that clients forward personal documents, passports and payment through the mail, as safe delivery cannot be guaranteed.

6. Interview appointment – Not all applicants are interviewed. If an interview is required, you will be advised by the case officer in due course.

Key processing steps and when you can expect to hear from us.

- Lodging your application** –Within 7 days of the embassy receiving your application you will be provided with a letter with your case officer's name and contact details.
- Document checks and health clearances** - If we have requested any additional documents, we will wait for the prescribed period. We will also wait for the results of health checking. If we need to talk to you further, we may request you to attend an interview.

- ❑ **Interview** - You may be interviewed by your case officer and we will let you know if you need to attend and interview.
- ❑ **Assessment and decision** - Your case officer will assess your application against the requirements of the visa you apply for. Once your application has been assessed against the legislative requirements, an Australian Officer will make a decision on your visa application.
- ❑ **Notification** - If you are granted a visa, we will place the visa label in your passport and provide you with a letter explaining the conditions of your visa. If you are refused a visa, we will provide you with the reasons for our decision and advise you of any review rights. Your passport will generally be returned to you by courier. If you lodge your application through the VIA Center, you may make arrangements to pick up your passport from there. We will return all original documents submitted.

We may contact you at any time during the visa process, so it is important that you keep us advised of your correct contact details and any changes in your circumstances (such as the birth of a child or marriage etc).

Frequently Asked Questions - FAQs

1. What do my sponsor and I need to comment on in our statements about the history and development of our relationship?

You should outline key features of your partner relationship such as:

- How and when you met your partner and how your relationship developed, including whether you had a marriage ceremony.
- Any shared financial commitments or assets
- Amount of time you have spent living together
- Whether you share the care of any children
- Your future plans.

2. How long will it take?

Partner migration cases are given priority and usually decided within 3-6 months. However, each application presents different issues that can vary the processing time. Well documented, complete applications can be decided much more quickly. Some factors that may delay the processing time include:

- an incomplete application and requested documents not being submitted promptly
- additional checks becoming necessary, including additional interviews
- medical issues, particularly tuberculosis
- past visa malpractice by the visa applicant

3. How can I assist in the efficient processing of my application?

Submit a complete application and include all supporting documents. This is the single most important factor in allowing us to make a quick decision.

Provide an e-mail address. This enables us to communicate with you quickly and efficiently.

It may speed up processing if we can communicate with a third party (such as the sponsor) directly regarding your visa application. However, the disclosure of information to anyone other than the applicant is governed by the Privacy Act - and certain information about the application can only be provided if you give written consent. If you wish us to communicate with a third party, you should provide your written consent for us to do so.

4. I applied for a Prospective Spouse (fiancé) visa but we are now contemplating marriage in the Philippines before the visa is finalised. How does this affect the processing of my fiancé application?

A fiancé application can be changed to a Spouse application where you have married after making the application. You must advise us in writing that the fiancé application is withdrawn, and request us to change your application to a spouse application. You must submit your original NSO marriage certificate and marriage license. There is no additional fee.

5. I have children from a previous relationship but they are not migrating with me. Are they required to undergo medical examination?

All non-migrating dependants are required to undergo medicals. This is to ensure that the status of their health, should they wish to migrate later, would not compromise Australia's health care system.

Commission on Filipinos Overseas Certificate

Philippine law requires all Filipinos who intend to settle permanently abroad (e.g. fiancés and spouses of foreign nationals, skilled migrant visa holders) to register with the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO). Registration is done by either contacting 563 1965/ 561 8321 loc. 103 or submitting an online reservation application form at www.cfo.gov.ph.

Metro Manila Office:

Citigold Centre 1345 Pres. Quirino Avenue
 Corner South Superhighway, Manila
 Tel: (632)561 8321 local 104,105, 201 to 204, 300 to 304
 Fax: (632)561 8332
 Email: cfodfa@info.com.ph; cfomio@info.com.ph

Cebu:

Commission on Filipinos Overseas
 Cebu Extension Office
 Causing-Lozada Office, Osmeña Blvd
 Corner MJ Cuenco Avenue, Cebu City
 Telefax: (6332) 255 5253