

Do you have a remaining family member abroad?

If you have a remaining relative abroad, you may be able to sponsor him/her and his/her spouse to migrate to Australia. There are strict requirements for remaining relative. To qualify for the status of “remaining relative”, an applicant

- must be the remaining relative of an Australian, an Australian permanent resident; and
- The person who sponsored must be a parent, brother, sister, step-parent, step-brother or sister of the applicant; and
- The person who sponsored should be usually resident in Australia; and
- If the applicant and the applicant’s spouse has an overseas near relative, the
 - The applicant and the applicant’s spouse (if any) should usually reside in a country, not being Australia, that is different to the country in which that relative resides; and
 - Neither the applicant nor the applicant’s spouse (if any) have had contact with that relative within a reasonable period before making the application; and
- The applicant and the applicant’s spouse (if any) together have not more than 3 overseas near relative.

A remaining relative can be sponsored by either the applicant’s Australian relative or by the spouse of the Australian relative, and in both cases, the sponsor must :

- has turned 18; and
- is a settled resident citizen, a settled Australian resident; and
- is usually resident in Australia

In the case of sponsorship by the spouse of Australian relative, the “spouse” must cohabits with the Australian relative.

As with parent migration, the remaining relative migration is subjected to quota and queuing. Under the priority of processing, the remaining relative of Australian citizens will have priority over Australian permanent residents. At the discretion of

the respective visa processing centers, the applicant may be called for an interview to ascertain the authenticity of the documents supplied.

Other requirements of remaining relative migration:

- The applicant will be subject to health check and no criminal record check.
- Once DIMIA is satisfied that an applicant fulfilled the primary criteria, the applicant or his/her sponsor will be call upon to issue a mandatory assurance of support (AOS). As discussed in my article last week, this assurance of support is now executed through Centre Link of Australia.

If most of your brothers, sisters and parents are either in Australia or other overseas countries other than your home country, it is time to take stock and check if you still have a relative that you can sponsor to migrate to Australia.

Latest news (July 2004)

1. WA to join Skilled Independent Regional (SIR) scheme?

WA State government is still awaiting the report from a committee to decide the accrediting body if the scheme is adopted for the state. Other states such as South Australia has openly welcomed the SIR scheme.

2. Australian Federal Police (AFP) clearance

DIMIA has announced that the concession for those who cannot obtain their AFP in time has been extended until 1st Nov 2004. However, intended applicants must lodge their main migration applicant (880 or 881 etc) within the 6 months of their official final examination results.

3. New form and fees

DIMIA have raised the application fees on the 1st of July 2004. Form 47 SK has been updated to incorporate the SIR scheme.