



Australian Government

**Department of Immigration
and Citizenship**

IMPORTANT: CHANGES TO SPONSORED FAMILY VISITOR VISA

From 2 April 2005 Sponsored Family Visitor Visa (subclass 679) must be lodged in Australia by the sponsor.

The Visa applicants should complete form 48S and send it to their sponsor in Australia along with all other supporting documents.

The sponsor should complete form 1149 and lodge both form 48S and form 1149 with the supporting documents at their state or territory DIMIA office in Australia. Completed applications can be lodged in person or by mail.

The sponsor **must** be a settled Australian citizen or an Australian permanent resident who is one of the following:

- a relative (spouse, parent, brother, sister, child, adopted child, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild and the 'step' equivalent of these)
- a member of an Australian parliament (Commonwealth, State or Territory government) or a local mayor ; or
- a Commonwealth government agency or instrumentality or a State or Territory government agency or instrumentality.

For subclass 679 visas the standard period of stay will be 3 months. If an applicant requests a longer period of stay and the decision-maker is satisfied that they intend a genuine visit, a period of up to 6 months may be considered. In exceptional circumstances a stay of 12 months will be considered.

Further information on the visa subclass including application forms and sponsorship forms will be available from 2 April 2005, at DIAC website www.immi.gov.au.