

Filipino Migrants Forum

Do You Have a Sponsor under General Skilled Migration ?

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If you can pass the points test currently at 120 points for independent skilled visa under the General Skilled Migration you do not need your relative to sponsor you. However, if you cannot reach the pass mark, and you have a qualified relative to sponsor you, your pass mark is lowered to 100 for a skilled sponsored (migrant) visa. Any of the following relatives who are Australian citizens or permanent residents, may sponsor you or your spouse or same sex partner, as main applicant:

- Parent (natural, adopted or step); or
- Non dependent child (natural, adopted or step)
- Brother or sister, (natural, adopted or step) or
- Aunt or uncle, (natural, adopted or step) or
- Nephew or niece (natural, adopted or step)

The sponsor may be residing anywhere in Australia.

Sydney and Selected Areas Skill Shortage List (SSASSL) which was introduced in September 2004 as a mechanism to encourage migrants to settle outside Sydney and other high population growth centres in New South Wales has been abolished, hence, those who could not be sponsored by their relative before because their relative was living in Sydney and Selected areas may now apply and be sponsored under general skilled migration.

Note however that 15 points for sponsorship are no longer awarded to permanent visa applicants sponsored by an Australian relative. However, those whose sponsoring relative live in a designated area and apply for the Skilled – Regional Sponsored – temporary visa may be awarded an extra 25 points and their first cousin or grandparents may also sponsor them.

If you do not have a sponsoring relative but your occupation is required by a state or territory, you may be nominated by the state or territory and be awarded an extra 10 points, if you are entitled to at least 90 points without counting the points for the sponsorship. See the link on participating states and territories for sponsorships from our website – certain states have additional requirements to be met for their sponsored occupations.

The new General Skilled Migration visas which took effect from 1 September 2007, no longer require an Assurance of Support. Thus, there is no longer a need to obtain the Assurance of Support bond for those being sponsored by a relative.

This information is of a general nature and should not be taken as authoritative legal advice for specific cases. The writer, Atty. Imelda Argel is a practising Filipino lawyer and a registered migration agent in Sydney, Australia. She is a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, the High Court of Australia, Attorney at law in the Philippines and in the State of New York, USA. Her Registered Migration Agent no. is 9682957. More information is available at www.iargel.com.au Readers of the Philippine Community Herald Newspaper are invited to send their comments to "The President, Filipino Migrants Forum" c/o Imelda Argel & Associates, Solicitors & Attorneys, by email at info@iargel.com.au or by fax at (+612) 9699 3210 or by post to Suite 41, Ground Floor, 61-89 Buckingham St. SURRY HILLS NSW 2010.