

IS THERE A CAREGIVER VISA TO AUSTRALIA?

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It seems that there is some confusion between a “carer visa” to Australia and visas for “caregivers” to other countries. Like any other Australian visa, a criteria defined under the Australian Migration Regulations is followed by the Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs in deciding whether to grant or refuse the visa application. A caregiver who does not meet the requirements will not be granted a carer visa even if she or he has completed a caregiver course.

Below is an outline of the general requirements. This does not replace the need for an advice from a registered migration agent on specific cases.

Who may apply for a carer visa?

Any of the following relatives of the person requiring care may apply:

- (a) the spouse of the person; or
- (b) a child, adopted child, parent, brother or sister of the person; or
- (c) a step-child, step-parent, step-brother or step-sister of the person.
- (d) a grandparent, grandchild, aunt, uncle, niece or nephew, or a step-grandparent, step-grandchild, step-aunt, step-uncle, step-niece or step-nephew.

Who is requiring care?

An Australian citizen, an Australian permanent resident or an eligible New Zealand citizen, usually resident in Australia (the resident or a member of the family unit of the resident).

What kind of the medical condition requires care?

The person requiring care must undergo medical examination by Health Services Australia and an assessment certificate must be issued by Health Services Australia that the medical condition has an impairment rating of at least 30% causing physical, intellectual or sensory impairment of the ability of that person to attend to the practical aspects of daily life which will continue for at least 2 years and will require direct assistance in attending to the practical aspects of daily life.

Is the required assistance available elsewhere?

Proof must be given that the assistance *cannot* be reasonably be obtained from any other relative of the resident, being a relative who is an Australian citizen, an Australian permanent resident or an eligible New Zealand citizen; *or from welfare, hospital, nursing or community services in Australia;*

What is required of the carer?

The visa applicant must be willing and able to provide to the resident, substantial and continuing assistance of the kind needed in attending to the practical aspects of daily life.

Assistance could include hygiene, toileting, dressing, eating, mobility, special exercising, or therapy, giving medication, constant monitoring and supervision.

The carer must pass health and character tests.

The carer must be sponsored and an assurance of support must be provided.

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The writer will conduct as seminar on skilled migration to Australia in Manila on 8 February 2004. The first five readers of the Philippine Star who book and attend the seminar shall be entitled to a discount on the seminar fee. Bookings may be made with Celia on 812 1833 or 0918 910 1040.