

Filipino Migrants Forum

DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE TERMS USED IN VISA APPLICATIONS?

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Sponsors and visa applicants completing visa application forms without the assistance of a Registered Migration Agent must ensure that information given in response to the questions in the visa application forms are correct and accurate. Incorrect or incomplete information even if unintentional could be a ground for visa refusal or even visa cancellation after the visa is granted.

They should also take responsibility for the (a) selection of the appropriate visa class, (b) completion of the correct application form for the particular subclass visa and (c) payment of the correct visa charge at the time of application, to ensure that the visa application is valid.

It is essential that an applicant has a clear understanding of the various terms used by the Department of Immigration & Multicultural & Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) in the application forms. Below are meanings of some terms which you may find useful, more will be included with succeeding articles each month:

- **Primary applicant(s)** The principal person applying for a visa to Australia who must meet the primary criteria for the visa.
- **Secondary applicant(s)** Dependents or members of the family of the main applicant included in the visa application who must meet the secondary criteria.
- **Sponsor** The Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident or eligible New Zealand citizen who undertakes sponsorship obligations
- **Assurer** An Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident or eligible New Zealand citizen usually living in Australia who need not be the sponsor nor be related to the visa applicant and undertakes to reimburse the Commonwealth with any money covered by the assurance if the visa applicant or dependents receive a recoverable benefit during the AoS.
- **Australian Citizen** A person who holds Australian citizenship
- **Permanent Resident** A person who holds a permanent visa and is usually resident in Australia
- **Partner** A person who is in a married or in a de facto relationship, or the prospective spouse of the sponsor or a same sex partner as to the other.