



Sponsorship and Assurance of Support

If a relative agrees to sponsor an application, they are undertaking to provide adequate accommodation and financial assistance as required by the visa holder during the first 2 years stay in Australia. They also agree to provide information and advice to help the visa holder and family settle in Australia such as information in relation to housing, living costs etc.

An Assurance of Support may also need to be lodged. This does not necessarily have to be supplied by the sponsor (in fact they may not even meet the requirements as an Assurer) but can be provided by any Australian citizen or permanent resident (do not need to be related).

An Assurance of Support is a commitment to provide financial support to the applicant and family so that the applicant will not have to rely on any government forms of support.

To be an assurer, you must be at least 18 years of age, be usually resident in Australia and be an Australian Citizen, Australian permanent resident or a New Zealand Citizen who is a “protected special category visa holder”. An assurer must have a taxable income above the threshold amount for the last two financial years and be able to provide evidence of this (Australian Tax Returns for the previous two years).

A bond is also required to be paid at the time of approval of the application which is lodged with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. This bond is held for 2 years from the date the person arrives in Australia. This money will be released at the end of the 2 year period, less any claims made for benefits or allowances from the government.

For permanent Contributory Parent category visa applicants, an AoS bond (held for 10 years) of \$10,000 is required for the main applicant and \$4000 for any adult secondary applicant.

For Parent category visa applicants, an AoS bond (held for 2 years) of \$5,000 is required for the main applicant and \$2000 for any adult secondary applicant.

For the Remaining Relative Category visa applicants, an AoS bond (held for 2 years) of \$5,000 is required for the main applicant and \$2000 for any adult secondary applicant.

If an AOS is needed for a spouse visa, no bond is required to be paid.

Essentially this means that if the visa holder makes a claim for Social Security payments during their first two years, these payments will be deducted from the Assurance of Support Bond. If the claims exceed the bond amount, then the Assuror will be responsible for paying the claim back to the Government.

Recoverable social security payments are:

- Newstart Allowance
- Special Benefit
- Parenting Payment (Partnered)
- Youth Allowance

- Austudy Payment
- Widows Allowance
- Mature Age Allowance
- Partner Allowance
- Crisis Payment