



Statutory declaration by a supporting witness relating to a partner visa application

This declaration should be completed by a person who knows both you, as the visa applicant for a Spouse or Interdependency visa, and your sponsor and the history of your relationship.

It is the policy of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (the department) that this person be aged 18 years or over and be an Australian citizen or Australian permanent resident. Evidence of their Australian citizenship or Australia permanent resident status must be attached to this form (for example, a certified copy of the birth certificate, Australian passport or passport containing a permanent visa). Such evidence must show the **current name** of the person making the declaration.

A person completing this declaration may be required to submit up to three separate declarations during the processing of the application to remain permanently in Australia. They may be contacted by the department for further comment and interview in relation to the information given in this form.

Where there is insufficient space, please attach a separate sheet showing which questions the information refers to.

In Australia, statutory declarations must be witnessed by a person prescribed by the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959* and Regulations. Prescribed persons include those who are a:

- Justice of the Peace;
- medical practitioner;
- legal practitioner;
- civil marriage celebrant or registered minister of religion;
- dentist;
- nurse;
- pharmacist;
- full-time teacher;
- bank manager or bank officer with 5 or more continuous years of service;
- postal manager or permanent employee of the Australian Postal Commission with 5 or more continuous years of service;
- police officer; or
- public servant with 5 or more continuous years of service.

A full list of prescribed persons can be found in the Statutory Declarations Regulations 1993 (available at <http://scaleplus.law.gov.au/html/pastereg/browse/TOC.htm>).

If you are outside Australia and are unable to get an Australian citizen or Australian permanent resident to provide or witness a statutory declaration in support of your relationship, you may wish to provide supporting statements from other friends or family members. A solicitor or Notary Public generally should witness such statements, but this requirement may differ depending in which country you are located. You should confirm the requirements with an officer at the nearest Australian mission when you lodge your application. Contact details for Australian missions are available on the department's website at

www.immi.gov.au/contacts/overseas/htm

Note: Under the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959*, people who intentionally make a false statement in a statutory declaration are liable for punishment of 4 years imprisonment. In addition, the *Migration Act 1958* (the Act) provides penalties for providing false or misleading statements of 12 months or a fine of A\$12,000.

About the information given in this form

The department is authorised to collect information provided on this form under Part 2 of the Act. The information collected will be used in the assessment of an application for the applicant to remain permanently in Australia on spouse or interdependency grounds. The information provided might also be disclosed to agencies who are authorised to receive information relating to border control, health assessment, health insurance, health services, law enforcement, payment of pensions and benefits, taxation, and review of decisions.

The information form 993i *Safeguarding your personal information* gives details of agencies to which your information might be disclosed. The form is available from the department's website

www.immi.gov.au/forms_booklets/index.htm or from your nearest departmental office or Australian mission overseas.

The department has authority under the Act to collect a range of personal identifiers from non-citizens, including visa applicants, in certain circumstances. For more detailed information, you should read information form 1243i *Your personal identifying information*, which is available from the department's website

www.immi.gov.au/forms_booklets/index.htm or from your nearest departmental office or Australian mission overseas.

Home page

www.immi.gov.au

DIMIA enquiry line

Telephone **131 881** (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). This number is available only in Australia. If you are outside Australia, please contact your nearest Australian mission.

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