



This fact sheet has been prepared in conjunction with a Migration Specialist to assist you in your preparation in submitting your ENS-186 visa application. It is your responsibility to ensure that your application and supporting documents meet the requirements for each individual circumstance, as stipulated by the Department of Home Affairs [Immigration and citizenship \(homeaffairs.gov.au\)](http://immigrationandcitizenship.homeaffairs.gov.au). The submission of an incomplete application will delay the processing of your application by the DHA.

Partner Visa: Stage 1 Evidence of Relationship FACT SHEET

As a Partner visa applicant, you must provide evidence that your relationship with your spouse or de facto partner is **genuine** and **continuing**. Examples of the types of evidence accepted by the Department of Home Affairs (the DOHA) are listed below.

Please provide as many of the documents listed below as possible. Please also make sure that you provide **AS MANY AS POSSIBLE** documents from **EACH** of the **four different categories**.

FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

This shows that you and your spouse/partner share financial commitments and responsibilities.

- Evidence of **joint ownership** of real estate or other major assets such as cars, shares, or appliances *e.g. property ownership documents, rates notices, share portfolio summaries, dividends, vehicle registration documents*
- Evidence of **joint liabilities** such as shared loans, insurance (car, home, contents or other) or personal loans *e.g. loan statements, insurance policy documents, loan documents*
- **Joint bank account statements** (preferably including statements dating from when you first set up the account, as well as recent statements). *NOTE: If you do not already have a joint account, we recommend that you set one up as soon as possible*
- **Shared household bills** and other documents showing shared expenses
- Documents showing that you and your spouse/partner have taken on **legal commitments** as a couple, or that one person owes a legal obligation in relation to the other *e.g. documents showing that one person is the other's guarantor for a loan, has power of attorney for the other, is the other person's superannuation beneficiary, is the other person's carer*
- Any other documents showing that you **share your finances** *e.g. money transfers, direct debits, other evidence of financial support provided to each other (and/or family members)*





HOUSEHOLD DOCUMENTS

This shows that you and your spouse/partner share responsibilities within your household:

- Joint tenancy or home ownership documents for the residence in which you live together e.g. home ownership documents, tenancy agreement, receipts for bond and rent payments, statement from landlord/property owner regarding your living arrangements
- Bills/other correspondence for joint utilities accounts e.g. gas, phone, electricity, internet, Pay TV, gym membership, subscriptions
- Documents showing that you have joint responsibility for children e.g. court order, custody or guardianship documents, evidence of Centrelink benefit payments
- Any other correspondence addressed to you and your spouse/partner at the same address (preferably showing both of your names on the same document) e.g. letters or cards sent by family members, friends, government departments or other source.
- **Written statement** describing your **living arrangements** and how you distribute responsibility for housework

SOCIAL DOCUMENTS

This shows how your relationship is viewed by your friends and family

- Evidence that you and your spouse/partner are **accepted as a couple socially** e.g. *joint invitations to social events, photos taken during social outings, social media profiles*
- Documents showing that you and your spouse/partner have **declared your relationship** to government bodies, commercial/public institutions or other authorities e.g. *Centrelink letter acknowledging your relationship, letters from government bodies addressed to you and your spouse/partner, tax return on which both of your names are mentioned*
- Documents showing that you are both **members of organisations or groups** e.g. *evidence of joint club, casino or gym memberships, letter from the leader of your church/other religious organisation*
- Evidence that you and your spouse/partner participate together in **sporting, cultural or social activities**
- Evidence that you and spouse/partner have **travelled together**, or have **booked future travel** together e.g. *joint travel itineraries, tax invoices for flights, boarding cards, accommodation bookings, travel insurance*





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LEVEL OF COMMITMENT DOCUMENTS

This shows that you and your spouse/partner are mutually committed

- Correspondence (e.g. letters, cards, emails, texts) and itemised phone accounts showing that you and your spouse/partner **maintained contact during any periods of separation**
- Any documents showing how long you have been in a relationship and how long you have lived together i.e. documents dating from the start of your relationship or from when you started living together
- You and/or your spouse/partner's **wills** *NOTE: you can have your wills prepared by a solicitor, or use a Will Kit for couples.*
- Any other documents that demonstrate your intention to continue in a long-term relationship i.e. showing how you have combined your affairs and have plans for a shared future e.g. *Notice of intention to get married, evidence of purchase of an engagement ring or other symbol of commitment, details of pregnancy (if relevant)*

NOTE: The above list is not exhaustive; any documents that clearly evidence that your relationship is genuine and continuing should be provided to the DOHA in support of your application.



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