



Domestic and Family Violence Visa Support

Domestic and Violence Visa Support Section newsletter

Edition 2 – 22 August 2022

Welcome to the second edition of our Domestic and Family Violence Visa Support newsletter. Thank you for your positive feedback on our first edition. Based on your feedback, we have also attached a PDF version to make it easier for you to share.

We are getting in early with our next edition as we have some good news to share about changes to the Provisional Partner (subclass 309) visa to provide access to the family violence provisions in certain circumstances.

Since our last newsletter, we have welcomed three new team members to our section – Arshiya, Caroline and Joanna. Arshiya is our new Visa Support Officer for NSW and ACT and Caroline is our new Visa Support Officer for WA and SA. Joanna has joined our program management team, which is described below.

I wanted to remind you that our [Where to get help](#) web page has been redesigned to make it easier for our clients to find support services. If you would like your organisation added to this list of services, please let us know. We have also created a new, short URL for our *Domestic and family violence and your visa* web pages to make it easier for clients to access and remember – www.homeaffairs.gov.au/familyviolence

If you have any suggestions for what you would like to see in future newsletters, please let us know by emailing dfvs.temp.visa@homeaffairs.gov.au.

Bree Cook
A/g Director

Changes for offshore Partner visa applicants and holders whose visas have been, or can be granted in Australia, and the family violence provisions

We are pleased to advise that from 20 August 2022, certain subclass 309 visa applicants and holders whose visas have been, or can be granted in Australia, can access the family violence provisions (FVPs).

This includes:

- Provisional Partner (subclass 309) **visa holders**, who were granted their visa under the [COVID-19 concession](#), whose relationship with their sponsor has broken down and who have experienced family violence.
- Provisional Partner (subclass 309) **visa applicants** in Australia who are eligible for the grant of their visa in Australia under the [COVID-19 concession](#), whose relationship with their sponsor has broken down and who have experienced family violence. Under the FVPs these applicants may be eligible for the grant of their combined provisional and permanent Partner (subclass 309 and 100) visa.

These changes are intended to enhance protections for Partner visa applicants in Australia, and ensure that individuals do not remain in a violent relationship with their partner to stay in Australia.

The COVID-19 concession period commenced on 1 February 2020 and is still in effect. We encourage you to continue to visit the Department of Home Affairs website to stay up to date with the latest immigration updates.

Information on how to notify the Department of a relationship breakdown and further information about the FVPs is available on our [website](#).

Consent to disclose information

Privacy is, and always will be, important to us. When working with support services, we always make sure that we have the visa applicant or visa holder's approval.

In response to your feedback regarding using Form 956/956A, we have developed a *Consent to disclose information* form (attached) to make this process easier. Completion of this form authorises us to communicate with the person listed to help provide support to the client.

Completing this form does not replace the current authorised recipient forms. Migration agents and legal practitioners should continue to use the appropriate form to represent their client:

- [Form 956](#) - Appointment of a registered migration agent, legal practitioner or exempt person.
- [Form 956A](#) - Appointment or withdrawal of an authorised recipient.

We will add this new form to our [Service Provider](#) web page shortly.

Program management function

We have recently taken over program management oversight for family violence processing within the Partner visa program, including the Family Violence Unit.

This includes the end-to-end process from notification of relationship breakdown and family violence claims through to referral to the Independent Expert (IE), where this may be required.

We have heard your feedback and are keen to improve our processes and ensure the operation of the family violence provisions is efficient, transparent and fit-for-purpose.

We hope to share more details with you in future newsletters.

In-language communication resources

We know community groups play a big role in supporting people affected by domestic and family violence.

There are many in-language communication resources available to assist in the invaluable work that you do.

- [Help is Here](#) – videos and posters on 1800 Respect and MensLine support
- [Family Safety Pack](#) – information on Australia’s laws regarding domestic and family violence and a woman’s right to be safe
- [Services Australia](#) – videos, flyers and posters on connecting clients to [payments and services](#)
- [Respect Campaign](#) – conversation guides, infographics and animations for the [Stop it at the Start](#) campaign
- [eSafety](#) – factsheets about staying safe online and abuse through technology

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