

Everything you need to gather. *Before we audit it.*

Partner visa refusals rarely come down to whether a couple is real. They come down to evidence — thick in one category, thin in three others, dates that quietly contradict each other. This is the full list of what to collect and how to prepare it, so your file is ready for review.

Work through it at your own pace. The tick boxes are yours to use.

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01 · THE FRAMEWORK

Four pillars. The grid Home Affairs actually scores.

Every piece of relationship evidence you provide falls into one of four categories, set out in Regulation 1.15A(3) of the Migration Regulations 1994. A case officer reads your file against all four. A strong file has real weight in each — not a mountain in one and a molehill in the rest.

Financial aspects — that you share money and financial responsibility.	1.15A(3)(a)
Nature of the household — that you live together and share the running of a home.	1.15A(3)(b)
Social aspects — that the world around you treats you as a couple.	1.15A(3)(c)
Nature of the commitment — that this is a mutual, ongoing, long-term commitment.	1.15A(3)(d)

When you upload, your evidence goes into four folders that mirror these pillars exactly. Sorting as you go makes the audit faster and cheaper — and it forces you to see your own gaps before we do.

02 · CORE DOCUMENTS

The paperwork that has to be there.

This is the identity, character and status paperwork the application itself needs. It is not the relationship evidence — that comes next.

APPLICANT (VISA)

- ☐ **Current passport**
Photo page and all current pages.
- ☐ **Birth certificate**
Or family register. Both parents named where possible.
- ☐ **National identity card**
If your country issues one.

☐ **Previous marriage, divorce or death certificates**

If previously married, divorced or widowed.

☐ **Evidence of any name change**

Deed poll, marriage certificate.

☐ **Police certificates**

Every country lived in 12+ months over the last 10 years, since turning 16. Issued within the last 12 months.

☐ **Military service or discharge papers**

If you served in any country's armed forces.

SPONSOR (PARTNER)

☐ **Current passport**

Photo page.

☐ **Birth certificate**

Or family register.

☐ **Evidence of Australian status**

Citizenship certificate, passport, or PR / eligible NZ evidence.

☐ **Previous marriage, divorce or death certificates**

If applicable.

☐ **Evidence of any name change**

If applicable.

☐ **Australian police certificate**

Sponsors must provide one for sponsorship approval.

☐ **Proof you usually live in Australia**

Lease, mortgage, utilities, payslips or tax notice.

Health and Form 80 / 1221 come later in the process, arranged after lodgement or on request from the Department. You do not need them to prepare your evidence file, so do not hold up your audit waiting on a medical.

03 · THE HEART OF THE FILE

Relationship evidence, pillar by pillar.

This is what the audit weighs. For each pillar: the items to gather, and the difference between evidence that carries weight and evidence that fills space. You do not need every line — you need real coverage across all four, spread across the length of your relationship, not clustered in the month before you lodge.

Financial aspects

REG 1.15A(3)(A)

☐ **Joint bank account statements**
Ideally from opening through to recent. Active use matters more than a balance.

☐ **Joint liabilities**
Shared loans, one of you guarantor for the other.

☐ **Joint ownership of major assets**
Property title, vehicle registration, shares.

☐ **Pooling of resources**
Transfers between you, shared savings goals, one covering the other.

☐ **Legal financial obligations**
Wills, power of attorney, superannuation beneficiary nomination naming each other.

☐ **Day-to-day expense sharing**
Bills in both names, shared subscriptions, regular direct debits.

CARRIES WEIGHT A joint account showing 18 months of genuine two-way use — both salaries in, shared bills out.	CARRIES LITTLE A joint account opened three weeks ago with a single deposit. New accounts look like paperwork, not partnership.
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Nature of the household

REG 1.15A(3)(B)

☐ **Joint lease or property in both names**

Tenancy agreement, mortgage, bond receipt, or a signed letter from your landlord.

☐ **Joint utility accounts**

Aim for at least two — electricity, gas, internet, water — in both names.

☐ **Mail to both of you at the same address**

Dated across your time together, not all from last week.

☐ **How you split the running of the home**

Cover this in your statement: who cooks, who pays what, who does the school run.

☐ **Shared responsibility for children**

If you have them — birth certificates, custody arrangements, enrolments.

CARRIES WEIGHT

A lease in both names plus utilities in both names plus mail spanning two years at that address. The picture holds together.

CARRIES LITTLE

One envelope addressed to both of you, and nothing else tying you to a shared home.

Social aspects

REG 1.15A(3)(C)

☐ **Form 888 statutory declarations**

At least two, from Australian citizens or permanent residents who know you both as a couple. Completed through the Home Affairs online Form 888 process.

☐ **Joint social invitations**

Weddings, parties, events addressed to both of you.

☐ **Joint travel evidence**

Itineraries, boarding passes, hotel bookings. A handful of dated photos, not hundreds.

☐ **Joint memberships**

Gym, clubs, religious or community groups.

☐ **Public declarations as a couple**

Relationship declared to the ATO, Medicare, Centrelink, your super fund.

☐ **Family acceptance**

Statements from parents, siblings, close friends who witness the relationship.

CARRIES WEIGHT

Two detailed Form 888s that tell specific stories — the trip they hosted you on, the Christmas you spent together — plus events, plus a declared relationship on official records.

CARRIES LITTLE

Four hundred undated photos and a stack of Form 888s that all say “they are a lovely couple” and nothing more. Statutory declarations on their own are rarely enough.

Nature of the commitment

REG 1.15A(3)(D)

☐ **Evidence of how long you have been together**

A trail from the start of the relationship to now — the earlier the better.

☐ **Cohabitation history**

When and where you have lived together. See the de facto note in section 05.

☐ **Communication during any time apart**

Message and call history covering periods of separation.

☐ **Joint plans for the future**

Booked travel, property plans, beneficiary nominations, anything showing a shared road ahead.

☐ **Your relationship statements**

One from each of you. This is where commitment is proven or lost — see section 04.

☐ **Knowledge of each other's circumstances**

Shown through your statements: family, finances, history, plans.

CARRIES WEIGHT

Two statements that tell the same story with different voices, dates that match your forms and your evidence, and a clear thread from first meeting to shared future.

CARRIES LITTLE

A generic statement that could describe any couple, with a cohabitation date that contradicts your lease. One contradiction can undo a strong file.

04 · THE PART MOST PEOPLE GET WRONG

Writing your relationship statement.

Both of you write one, separately, in your own words. This is the spine the rest of the evidence hangs off. A weak statement wastes a strong file; a strong statement makes a case officer read the rest generously. Do not reach for a template — a case officer has read a thousand of them, and they read as a thousand.

Structure: follow the timeline

Tell it in order, from first contact to today, with real dates. The Department is looking for a story that moves. Hit these beats:

01 How, when and where you met

The actual scene. Who introduced you, or which app, which venue, which mutual friend's kitchen. Specifics anchor everything that follows.

02 How the relationship developed

The move from meeting to dating to serious. The first trip. Meeting each other's families. The moment it stopped being casual, and how you knew.

03 When you committed — married or moved in

The decision to marry or to start living together, and roughly when. If you are de facto, be precise about when you began living together and where.

04 Your life together now

The ordinary, load-bearing detail. How you split the bills. Who does the cooking. How you supported each other through something hard — a job loss, an illness, a family death. This is where the four pillars come alive in your own voice.

05 Any time apart, and how you got through it

If you have been separated by work, visas or family, say when, why, and how you stayed connected. Do not hide gaps. An unexplained gap invites a question; an explained one closes it.

06 Where you are headed

Your plans. Marriage, children, a house, careers built side by side. Concrete beats aspirational — “we have booked the celebrant for March” says more than “we hope to marry someday”.

Write for weight, not warmth

A heartfelt statement is good. A heartfelt statement full of specific, checkable detail is what wins. Compare:

THIN	<i>“We love each other very much and support each other in everything. We are a committed couple and want to spend our lives together.”</i>
STRONG	<i>“When I lost my job in August 2023, Priya covered the rent on our Marrickville flat for four months without a word about it. That was when I stopped thinking of it as her money and my money.”</i>

The second one you cannot fake and cannot copy from anyone else. It shows the pillar — shared finances, a shared household — instead of announcing it. Aim for that in every paragraph: show the kitchen, not the concept.

The consistency rule — the one that sinks files.

Your statement, your partner's statement, your Form 47SP, your Form 888s and your evidence all have to agree on the facts. If your statement says you moved in together in March 2023, your lease had better not start in July 2024 with nothing to explain the gap. Before you submit anything, lay the dates side by side and check they line up. Contradictions are the single most common reason a strong-looking file draws a hard question.

05 · BEFORE YOU GO FURTHER

Four things that change everything. Tell us if any apply.

These are not box-ticks. Each one can decide whether you can even lodge, or lodge onshore. If any of them is a "maybe", flag it to us early — some have fixes if you act before you apply, and none of them improves by being left until the end.

De facto and together under 12 months?

A de facto relationship generally has to have run for at least 12 months immediately before you apply. Two exceptions matter: registering your relationship with your state or territory removes the 12-month requirement, and compelling or compassionate circumstances, such as a child together, can too. If you are close to the line, registering now is often the cleanest fix — but do it before you lodge.

S 5CB MIGRATION ACT 1958 · REG 2.03A

Has your partner sponsored someone before?

There are hard limits on how often, and how recently, a person can sponsor a partner. Previous partner sponsorships, or sponsorships that ended not long ago, can bar or delay a new one. If your sponsor has ever sponsored a partner, prospective marriage or interdependency visa before, tell us the dates. This is a knock-out issue, not a formality.

REG 1.20J

Applying onshore without a substantive visa?

If you are in Australia and do not currently hold a substantive visa, additional criteria under Schedule 3 may apply to an onshore 820 application. This is assessable and sometimes waivable, but it needs handling deliberately. Flag your current visa status to us — it sits outside the standard evidence audit and we will advise separately.

SCHEDULE 3 · MIGRATION REGULATIONS 1994

Had a visa refused or cancelled since you last arrived?

If a visa has been refused or cancelled since you last entered Australia, it can affect whether you are able to apply onshore at all. Do not assume it blocks you and do not assume it does not — tell us what happened and when, and we will work out where you stand.

S 48 MIGRATION ACT 1958

06 · GETTING IT UPLOAD-READY

How to prepare each file.

Good evidence badly prepared still costs you. Clean files are faster to review and harder to misread.

☐ **Scan in colour, clear and readable**

A blurry scan of a great document is a blurry scan. Re-do anything you would squint at.

☐ **One document, one file**

Combine a multi-page document into a single PDF. Do not split it across images.

☐ **Name files so a stranger knows what they are**

"CBA_joint_statement_2024.pdf", not "IMG_4471.jpg".

☐ **Caption and date your photos**

A dated caption — who, where, when — turns a photo into evidence. Choose a strong handful over a flood.

☐ **Translate anything not in English**

Use a NAATI-accredited translator in Australia. For overseas translations, include the translator's name, credentials and contact details.

☐ **Sort into the four pillars as you go**

Financial, household, social, commitment. If you are unsure which folder something belongs in, that uncertainty is worth a note to us.

Not sure whether you have enough?

That is the question this checklist cannot answer. Coverage is not the same as weight, and you cannot judge your own file from the inside. The **Partner Visa Readiness Audit** is a registered migration agent reading your evidence across all four pillars and telling you in writing where the gaps are — while they are still fixable. Fixed fee \$550, report in five business days.

immiresponse.au/partner-visa-readiness-audit

Immi Response Pty Ltd · Ieva Vaityte · MARN 1466195. This checklist is general guidance to help you prepare and organise your evidence for a Partner Visa Readiness Audit. It is not legal advice on your individual circumstances, and it does not replace the written Readiness Report you receive after review. Where a section asks you to flag something to us, please do — those items can affect your eligibility and are assessed individually. Legislative references are to the Migration Act 1958 and the Migration Regulations 1994 as in force at the time of writing.