



# Migration Newsflash

21 March 2019



## Why not bring the family?

### The introduction of the Sponsored Parent (Temporary) (subclass 870) visa

KPMG recently made submissions to the Department of Home Affairs concerning the need to reconsider the role of parents within the broader Australian migration program to recognise the economic contribution made by parents as grandparents, carers and volunteers.

KPMG has previously suggested that Australia may not be maximizing the utility of parent visa programs, noting that there are both social and economic opportunities to be harnessed by encouraging migrants to settle in Australia with their parents, particularly in circumstances where parents may provide support to family life and the care of children, allowing skilled migrants (and their partners where applicable) to fully participate in the labour market.

We are pleased that Minister David Coleman has announced the introduction of a five year sponsored parent visa. The visa provides parents with a new pathway to reunite with their children in Australia, while ensuring that taxpayers are not required to cover additional costs.

#### **The Sponsored Parent visa**

This visa will allow adult children to sponsor their parents to stay in Australia for a period of up to five years at a time, with the possibility of obtaining a second sponsored parent visa to provide a total stay in Australia of up to 10 years. While this visa allows a longer stay, it is a temporary visa and will not lead to a permanent visa. The visa is designed to encourage family reunion, and as such parents will not be permitted to work in Australia as holders of this visa.

To be eligible, a parent must be sponsored by their adult child, who must be an Australian citizen/ permanent resident or eligible New Zealand citizen, who has typically resided in Australia for four years. The visa is available to biological parents, adoptive parents and step-parents.



In addition to meeting health, character and national security requirements, parents will need to demonstrate they have access to funds and health insurance to support their stay in Australia.

Once approved, sponsors must comply with various sponsorship obligations, including providing financial support and accommodation, and paying any outstanding public health debts incurred.

Unlike other available parent visas, the Sponsored Parent visa does not require the 'balance of family' test to be met, meaning that the parent(s) do not need to have at least half of their children residing in Australia.

The visa will be available from 17 April 2019 and open to 15,000 applicants per year.

KPMG expects that the introduction of the Sponsored Parent Visa will be well received by families and will provide a viable alternative to existing visa programs that have commonly been used by parents to enter Australia.

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## [www.kpmg.com/au/immigration](http://www.kpmg.com/au/immigration)

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