

## Processing partnership-based temporary visa applications

This item is to remind immigration officers that a holistic assessment should be taken when processing partnership-based temporary applications where the partner is a New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holder. A holistic assessment considers the bigger picture and helps immigration officers with taking the appropriate actions during the assessment of the application. This allows for a sound decision to be made in line with policy objectives and requirements, and the best outcome to be achieved for both the clients and Immigration New Zealand.

Immigration officers should follow the processing guidance provided in [IAC 19/01](#) which replaces the advice previously provided to staff in Visa Pak [400](#) and [214](#). Staff should familiarise themselves with this IAC, particularly paragraphs 12-15 'Processing guidance for partnership-based applications'.

### **Application assessment**

When assessing a partnership-based work or visitor visa application where the partner is a New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holder, immigration officers should consider all available relevant information as well as the client's circumstances.

If a couple appears to be genuine and credible but cannot demonstrate they meet one or more of the partnership requirements, including living together, immigration officers may consider if the client meets the general visitor visa requirements and whether it may be appropriate to grant a general visitor visa for the purpose of a family visit.

For clarity, there may be cases where a genuine couple who have applied for a partnership visa are unable to meet partnership requirements but where the immigration officer is satisfied their circumstances mean it is appropriate to issue them a general visitor visa. Where this is the case, this should be done as part of the original partnership application processing.

The grant of any such visa is at the discretion of the immigration officer, and each application should be considered on a case-by-case basis. If you are unsure about how to proceed with an application, please seek advice from a Technical Advisor in the first instance.