



## Sponsored Migrants

### Background

Sponsored Migrants and Refugees (Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Scheme Entrants and Asylum Seekers) come to Australia under different programs and have different levels of eligibility for government programs and income support.

This policy relates only to Sponsored Migrants who have been granted Permanent Residency in Australia but are not eligible for Centrelink Income for the first 2 years of their residency. The sponsor gives a written undertaking to provide the migrant and their family with support for their first two years in Australia, including accommodation and financial assistance as required to meet their reasonable living needs. Sponsors have agreed to an Assurance Of Support (AOS). An AOS is a commitment to provide financial support to the person applying to migrate so that the migrant will not have to rely on any government forms of support. The AOS is in force for two years, from the date of the migrants arrival in Australia or grant of a relevant visa, whichever happens later. The AOS covers the principal applicant and any family members included in the application.

### Social Eligibility

Sponsored migrants are not eligible for public housing. This is because the applicant's sponsor has given an undertaking to provide applicants with accommodation and financial assistance to meet their living needs for a period of 2 years.

Sponsored Migrants will be eligible for public rental housing after the 2 year Assurance of Support has expired.

### Transfer Eligibility

In circumstances where public rental tenants apply for a transfer under Factor 1 (Adequacy) relating to Bedrooms Short where the overcrowding has come about because they are accommodating sponsored migrants the applicant will not be eligible for a transfer to a larger property.

This is because the tenant as a sponsor has given a commitment to provide accommodation support for the migrant.

### Rent Setting

Where a sponsored migrant becomes a household member of an existing tenant household, their income should be included in the calculation of rent setting based on their relationship to the tenant. The normal method for establishing this relationship to the tenant should be used. For example the migrant may be the spouse of the tenant, a child or living with the tenant as a boarder.

If the migrant has a NIL income it is not appropriate to deem a Centrelink income for the sponsored migrant. Sponsored migrants are not eligible to receive a Centrelink income for the first two years of their residency.



This policy position is taken in recognition that deeming an income for the extra household member or members may place undue financial hardship on the tenant.

Income other than Centrelink income should be included in the rent calculation.

## **Succession of Tenure**

Sponsored migrant household members are not eligible for succession of tenure. This would circumvent the application process for public rental housing. After the two year period covered by the AOS has expired succession of tenure may be considered in line with the Succession of Tenure policy.

## **Documentation**

Documentation to be used in verifying residency status or eligibility for income support must be from an Australian Government Agency. Residency status may be indicated on the clients Passport or Visa.

## **More Information**

More information relating to Sponsored Migrants is available from the Department of Immigration website - <http://www.immi.gov.au/migration>

For further information relating to this policy please email the helpdesk [housing.policyhelpdesk@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:housing.policyhelpdesk@dhhs.tas.gov.au)