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## To be Recognised As A “Partner”

You are eligible to apply for permanent residence under this category if you wish to move to New Zealand to be close to your partner and your partner is a New Zealand citizen or resident, and is eligible to sponsor you.

### General Requirements

You can be included in your partner’s residence application but you need to prove that you:

- Are living together (see <sup>1</sup> below) (and have been for a minimum of 12 months) in a genuine and stable relationship (see <sup>2</sup> below); and
- Are both aged 18 years or older (or have the consent of your parents or guardians if you are aged between 16 and 18); and
- Have met prior to this application being made; and
- Are not close relatives.

If you have been living apart from your partner for any periods during your relationship, you must also provide evidence of the length of these periods and the reasons for them.

You must also meet health and character requirements.

### Required for Lodgement

#### Acceptable forms of evidence:

- Marriage certificate (if married);
- Proof of shared residence (such as joint mortgage or tenancy agreements or rent book);
- Financial dependence or inter-dependence (proof of shared income or bank account, or accounts that show money transfers between your account and your partner’s account);
- Birth certificates of your children (if applicable);
- Any evidence of public or family recognition of your relationship;
- Correspondence (including post-marked envelopes) to you and your partner at the same address;
- Photographs of you and your partner together;
- Evidence of the duration of your relationship;
- The degree of commitment to a shared life;
- The performance of household duties.

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**Notes:**

- 1 *If you have not been “living together” for a period of 12 months, you must provide compelling evidence to Immigration New Zealand that there are genuine reasons for the separation. The assessment by the Service will depend on the circumstances in each case, and may require consideration of:*
  - *either partner’s family, education or employment commitments;*
  - *the duration of the partnership and the length of time the couple has spent apart;*
  - *the extent to which the couple has made efforts to be together during the time apart.*
  
- 2 *If INZ is satisfied that the couple is living together in a partnership that is genuine and stable, but the length of the partnership is less than the 12 months required, then the final decision on the application may be deferred and a work visa/permit approved if the couple wish to live together in New Zealand to make up the time required.*

Please include the above documents with your application.