

# THE PHILIPPINE COMMUNITY HERALD NEWSPAPER

## MULTICULTURAL

### Filipino Migrants Forum



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In this article, we emphasize the need to respond to letters of requests for the submission of documents by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) offices within the time specified. If the visa applicant fails to submit the requested documents within the allowed timeframe the application may be decided on the basis of documentation on the DIMA file and the application could very well be refused, unless time extension is granted.

Most visa applications, whether lodged in Aus-

### Are you aware of the deadlines for submitting your documents to Immigration?

tralia or outside Australia list every document required to be submitted with the visa application. While certified copies may be submitted with the visa application, originals of documents may be requested by the DIMA processing office after lodgment. Some requirements such as medical examination and police clearance have validity periods and for practical purposes, they are undertaken or obtained only during visa processing after so requested by DIMA in certain visa applications.

Police clearance certificates for each country vary in requirements and procedure. If a visa applicant over 16 years of age has lived for 12 months in the last ten years in a certain country, it is better to check the requirements and timetable before visa lodgment.

In most partner visa applications, the list of outstanding requirements if any, is provided by the processing DIMA office following an examination of the visa application and annexures after lodgment. It is normally in the same letter which acknowledges receipt of the application.

Ideally, any police clearance required should be

lodged with the partner application but if this is not possible it should be forwarded as soon as available or handed up at interview.

In all instances it is the responsibility of the visa applicant to take whatever steps are necessary to comply with the processing office's requirements. Interviews, where required, may not be automatically arranged by the DIMA processing office. Overseas applicants in particular may have to arrange suitable interview dates through a DIMA authorized call centre. The visa applicant should advise DIMA immediately of any difficulty in attending on the scheduled date if the interview has been arranged by the processing office.

For overseas applicants, medical/ xray examinations must be carried out by one of the panel doctors listed for each country. The examination by the family doctor alone will not be sufficient for visa processing purposes. For applicants who are in Australia, the medical/ xray examinations are carried out by Health Services Australia (HSA). In all cases, appointments are required and should be arranged immediately as soon as DIMA request is received.

*This information is of a general nature and should not be taken as authoritative legal advice for specific cases. The writer, Atty. Imelda Argel is a practising Filipino lawyer and a registered migration agent in Sydney, Australia. She is a Solicitor of the Supreme*

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*Readers of the Philippine Community Herald Newspaper are invited to send their comments to "The President, Filipino Migrants Forum" c/o Imelda Argel & Associates, Solicitors & Attorneys, by email at [info@iargel.com.au](mailto:info@iargel.com.au) or by fax at (+612) 9699 3210 or by post to Suite 41, Ground Floor, 61-89 Buckingham St. SURRY HILLS NSW 2010.*