

Parent Category Sponsorship - How many parents can I bring in?

We've modelled the conditions that would result in one sponsor bringing in the maximum possible number of parents under the Parent Category.

An individual can be the primary sponsor for a maximum of four people under the parent category at any given time. This does not prevent them from acting as a joint sponsor for their partner's parent or parents at the same time.

Under extreme circumstances a primary sponsor could support a maximum of six people to gain residence under the Parent Visa category but this would require both parents to die after arriving in New Zealand and for the sponsor's grandparents to be eligible for the category.

The scenario is:

Sponsor's biological parents have separated and both have repartnered

Sponsor is able to support their parent and the parent's partner (max four people)

Sponsor supports both parents and their new partners under the Parent Category

–sponsor is supporting FOUR people in New Zealand (two biological parents and their new partners)

After arriving in New Zealand both parents die and are survived by their new partners

If both parents are deceased, a sponsor may support one grandparent and their partner (max two people).

Sponsor supports one set of Grandparents under the Parent Category

- sponsor is supporting FOUR people in New Zealand (two surviving partners and two grandparents).

How Many Parents do Sponsors Support?

The vast majority of sponsors sponsor only one or two parents on a single application (98.2%).

Number of applications and clients approved by sponsor

Number of parents	Number of applications			Total Sponsors
	1	2	3	
1	2,626			2,626
2	10,718	106		10,824
3		51	2	53
4		72		72
				13,575

The table identifies people who are either the Primary Sponsor (the child of the parent who accepts responsibility for the sponsorship agreement) or the joint sponsor (the child's partner who accepts joint responsibility for the sponsorship agreement). A couple that jointly sponsor a parent are counted as two sponsors.

The most common sponsorship arrangement is for a sponsor to support two parents on a single application (10,718 sponsors), followed by a sponsor supporting a single parent (2,626 sponsors).

A smaller number of sponsors support two parents each on a separate application (106 sponsors). Examples of this situation would include cases where the parents have previously separated and apply individually or cases where the sponsor is acting as the joint sponsor for their partner's parent as well as the primary sponsor for their own parent.

123 sponsors sponsored 3-4 parents across two separate applications. The most likely scenario in this group is people acting both as a primary sponsor for their own parent/s and as a joint sponsor for their partner's parent/s.

A unique case was identified in which Privacy of natural persons