



# New Visa Pricing Arrangements

## Frequently asked questions for clients

### What are the new charges?

As of 1 July 2013, you might be required to pay the following charges when you lodge your visa application:

- **Base application charge** – this charge is the amount a main visa applicant will have to pay for their visa application. Every visa application will have a base application charge, but in some cases the base application charge is nil. If an application includes more than one applicant, known as a combined application, then the base application charge will only be paid by the main applicant.
- **Additional applicant charge** – this charge will be paid by each additional applicant included in or added to a combined visa application (unless an exemption applies). The amount varies according to the age of the applicant, the visa subclass and whether the applicant is in Australia or outside Australia. This charge is added to the base application charge; the main applicant does not pay the additional applicant charge.
- **Non-Internet application charge** – a charge of AUD80 for selected visas will apply when the option to lodge and pay for the application online exists through our online service at [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au), but you choose to lodge a visa application by paper application form, including fax, email, through a Service Delivery Partner (SDP) or in person. This charge is paid per application not per person.

This charge will initially be applied to the following five visa subclasses; with more to be progressively included:

- 155 Five year Resident Return Visa
  - 157 Three month Resident Return Visa
  - 417 Working Holiday
  - 476 Skilled (Recognised Graduate)
  - 485 Temporary Graduate
- **Subsequent temporary application charge** – is a charge of AUD700 that you might need to pay when you lodge a visa application for certain temporary visas when you are in Australia. The charge is per applicant in addition to any other applicable visa fees and charges.

This charge does not apply to the first visa that you apply for when you are in Australia.

This charge is paid by each person in an application and is based on your individual temporary visa history. You should check the [www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/visa-pricing-table.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/visa-pricing-table.htm) to find out if this charge must be paid when you lodge your visa application.

This charge is not paid for:

- bridging visa applications, criminal justice visas or enforcement visas, or
- permanent visa applications.

The additional applicant charge, non-Internet application charge and the subsequent temporary application charge do not apply if the base application charge for the visa you are applying for is nil.

In addition, for some visas you might also have to pay a further visa application charge. This may be paid after you have made your application but before the visa can be granted. This second instalment is not required if your application is refused.

**Note:** Visa application charges are usually not refundable, even if an applicant is withdrawn from an application or replaced with someone else.

Attached are examples on how the new visa pricing charges will be applied.

### **Why is the department introducing new charges?**

The decision to introduce new charges was based on a review of Australia's existing visa pricing structure that had not been modified since 1994. The pricing restructure will bring Australia's visa pricing in line with similar countries such as Canada, the United States of America and the United Kingdom.

### **How are the new charges determined?**

The new charges apply to most visa subclasses and will be determined by:

- the number of applicants in a combined application
- the age of the applicants included in a combined application
- the method used to lodge the application (by Internet or paper<sup>1</sup>)
- the location of the applicant at time of lodgement
- the applicant's temporary visa history.

More information about the new visa charges is available on the department's website at [www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/visa-pricing-table.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/visa-pricing-table.htm).

### **How do the new pricing arrangements affect me?**

The cost of your visa application may be affected by the changes to visa pricing. This depends on when your valid visa application was lodged and paid with the department. As of 1 July 2013, all new applications are subject to the new visa pricing charges.

A valid visa application lodged with the department and paid in full before 1 July 2013 will not be affected by the changes to visa pricing.

**Important:** A visa application is not valid until the department receives the correct amount of the visa application charge. If you did not pay the correct amount with your application when you lodged before 1 July 2013, then this may result in your application not being valid. This means that you may need to pay the new charges.

However, if you add an applicant to your application after the 1 July 2013, then the relevant new charges will need to be paid for the additional applicant. The charge will not be paid for newborns that are born after an application is lodged and before we have made a decision on the application. If you have a newborn, we advise you to contact the department.

### **Do these charges apply to everyone?**

Applications for most visas will be affected by the pricing changes from 1 July 2013. However, ETAs, eVisitor and Refugee and Humanitarian visas will not be affected, nor will Citizenship applications. Please check the Visa Pricing Table for exemptions [www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/visa-pricing-table.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/visa-pricing-table.htm).

### **How do I determine the total charge for my visa?**

Visa pricing tools are available at [www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/visa-pricing-table.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/visa-pricing-table.htm) to assist you to estimate the cost of your visa application.

Calculation sheets are available in all relevant application forms for paper applications. When you lodge your visa application online through our online service, the online application tool will calculate the total charges for you.

<sup>1</sup> or oral application for Resident Return Visa applications

You can also get an estimate of your visa application charge by using the visa pricing estimator at [www.immi.gov.au/find-price/](http://www.immi.gov.au/find-price/).

### **How do I find out which charges apply to the visa I am applying for?**

You can use the following tools to help you to estimate the total charge of your visa application:

- the Visa Wizard, available at [www.immi.gov.au/visawizard/](http://www.immi.gov.au/visawizard/)
  - the Visa Pricing Table, available at [www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/visa-pricing-table.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/visa-pricing-table.htm)
- the visa pricing estimator at [www.immi.gov.au/find-price/](http://www.immi.gov.au/find-price/).

### **If I am the main applicant, what charges might I have to pay?**

The visa application charge for a main applicant can be comprised of one or more of the following components:

- the base application charge
- the subsequent temporary application charge and
- the non-Internet application charge.

### **If I am an additional applicant, included in or added to a combined visa application, what charges might I have to pay?**

The visa application charge for an additional applicant in a combined application can be comprised of one or more of the following components:

- the additional applicant charge and
- the subsequent temporary application charge.

### **I am extending my stay in Australia, do the new charges apply?**

Yes. The new charges will need to be paid for all relevant visa applications, and all applicants included in a combined visa application, even if you are extending your stay in Australia.

### **My visa that I would like to extend does not seem to exist anymore. How do I extend my visa?**

There have been a number of recent changes to Australian visas. For information on what visa subclasses you can apply for, see the Visa Pricing Table available at [www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/visa-pricing-table.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/visa-pricing-table.htm)

### **I lodged my visa application before 1 July 2013 and I have just heard there are new charges. Will I have to pay the new charges?**

A valid visa application that was lodged with the department and paid in full before 1 July 2013 will not be affected by the changes to visa pricing.

However, if you did not pay the total amount with your application when you lodged before 1 July 2013, then this may result in your application not being valid. This means that you may need to pay the new charges.

If you add an applicant to your application after 1 July 2013, then the relevant new charges will need to be paid for the additional applicant.

**Note:** A visa application is not valid until the department receives the correct total of the visa application charge. If less than the correct charge is paid, we cannot commence processing your visa application until the correct charge is received.

### **I only had to pay a single fee for my visa and now I want to extend it and will be charged for everyone on the application. Why do I have to pay a different charge for this visa?**

The new charges apply to all applicable visa applications lodged on or after 1 July 2013. This applies to new visa applications and applications for further visas to extend your time in Australia.

### **Why does my child have to pay the new additional applicant charge?**

The additional applicant charge is applied to each additional visa applicant where there is more than one visa applicant in a combined visa application, unless an exemption applies.

### **I added my child to my application after 1 July 2013. I have been advised that I must pay another charge for my child and the application will not be processed unless I pay the charges, why is this?**

All applicants added to an application for a visa must pay the additional applicant charge, if it is applicable to that visa subclass. Please check [www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/visa-pricing-table.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/visa-pricing-table.htm) for the new visa charges.

### **My daughter is no longer travelling with us and I have already lodged and paid for the application. I want to remove her from the application and my son will take her place. Why do I have to pay a charge for my son when I already paid for my daughter but she didn't get a visa?**

All additional applicants added to a visa application must pay an additional application charge, if specified for that visa. Application charges are usually not refundable, even if an applicant is withdrawn or replaced with someone else.

### **I am applying for my visa application online and there is only a total amount on the screen. How do I know this amount is correct?**

When you are lodging an application online, you will only be able to see a total amount as you complete the application. A breakdown of the charges will be displayed on the receipt once you have completed paying and lodging your application.

If you would like to reassure yourself that the amount is correct, you can use the Visa Pricing Table available at [www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/visa-pricing-table.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/visa-pricing-table.htm) to calculate the amount that you need to pay.

### **I have prepared my visa application online and now I have this large payment amount on the screen that I cannot pay in one go, what do I do?**

If you do not have sufficient funds you will not be able to complete the visa application. You must contact your bank to ensure that you have enough funds available to pay the total visa application charge.

We suggest that you save your application data so that you can reuse this information when you are able to make full payment.

### **Why do I have to pay a non-Internet application charge when I got the application form from the Internet?**

A form that is printed from [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au) is not an electronic form. Electronic lodgement refers to a form submitted online through our online service.

### **I mailed in my application with a bank cheque and now I need to pay more, how do I pay?**

A full list of payment options is available at [www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/](http://www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/).

### **My relative living in Australia paid for my visa and I submitted my application separately overseas. They have since received a letter saying not enough money was paid, what do I do?**

The additional money requested by the department will need to be paid before the visa can be processed. It can be paid in Australia by your relative, or by you overseas. A full list of payment options is available at [www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/](http://www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/)

### **I cannot pay for my student visa extension and my semester starts soon, what do I do?**

You need to pay the full visa application charge in order to lodge a valid visa application. It is important to be aware of the expiry date of your student visa as you must either depart Australia before it expires, or lodge a new visa application.

If your visa does expire, you need to contact the department immediately through the Community Status Resolution Service. If your visa has been expired for more than 28 days, an exclusion period may be imposed which means you cannot return to Australia for three years.

Information about the Community Status Resolution Service is available on the department's website at:

[www.immi.gov.au/managing-australias-borders/compliance/community-status-resolution/](http://www.immi.gov.au/managing-australias-borders/compliance/community-status-resolution/)

**I used to see the visa fees on form 990i, why isn't that available now?**

The information previously contained on form 990i has been replaced with the Visa Pricing Table available at [www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/visa-pricing-table.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/visa-pricing-table.htm). Previous versions of form 990i are still available.

**I am no longer interested in travelling to Australia. How do I get my money back?**

There are limited circumstances in which the visa application charge can be refunded.

## ATTACHMENT

# Examples of the new visa pricing charges

## The additional applicant charge

Example of when the additional applicant charge **is** paid:

1. Yin applies for a Parent Migrant (subclass 103) visa in her home country, by submitting a paper application.
2. When she applies, she includes her 50-year old husband as an additional visa applicant.
3. Yin must pay the *base application charge* for this visa as the main applicant and the *additional applicant charge* must be paid for her husband (additional applicant 18 years or over) as an additional applicant.

The visa application charge is made up of:

- 1 x *base application charge* of \$2,060 for Yin as the main applicant
  - 1 x *additional applicant charge* of \$1,030 for the additional applicant (18 years or over)
- Total visa application charge: \$3,090\***

Example of when the additional applicant charge **is** paid:

1. Paul applies for an Independent ELICOS Sector (subclass 570) visa in his home country, by submitting a paper application.
2. When he applies, he includes his 30-year old wife and 2-year old child as additional visa applicants.
3. Paul must pay the *base application charge* for this visa as the main applicant, the *additional applicant charge* must be paid for his wife (additional applicant 18 years or over) and the *additional applicant charge* must be paid for his child (additional applicant under 18 years old) as additional applicants.

The visa application charge is made up of:

- 1 x *base application charge* of \$535 for Paul as the main applicant
  - 1 x *additional applicant charge* of \$405 for his wife as an additional applicant (18 years or over)
  - 1 x *additional applicant charge* of \$135 for his child as an additional applicant (under 18years)
- Total visa application charge: \$1,075\***

## The non-Internet application charge

Example of when the non-Internet application charge **is** paid:

1. Heidi applies for a Resident Return (subclass 155) visa in Australia, by mailing in a paper application.
2. As the Resident Return (subclass 155) visa has an online lodgement option through our online service, the *non-Internet application charge* applies.

The visa application charge is made up of:

- 1 x *base application charge* of \$300 for Heidi as the main applicant
  - 1 x *non-internet application charge* of \$80 for the application
- Total visa application charge: \$380\***

**Note:** If Heidi had submitted an online application for the Resident Return (subclass 155) visa through our online service, the *non-Internet application charge* would not have to be paid.

## The subsequent temporary application charge

Example of when the subsequent temporary application charge **is** paid:

1. Fritz applies for, and is granted a Visitor (subclass 600) visa in his home country. Fritz has to pay the *base application charge* for this visa as the main applicant.
  - This visa is not liable for the *subsequent temporary application charge* as it was applied for outside Australia.
  - As this visa was applied for outside Australia, it is not counted towards any further temporary visa applications Fritz makes in Australia where the *subsequent temporary application charge* may apply.

Therefore, the visa application charge is made up of:

1 x *base application charge* of \$115 for Fritz as the main applicant  
**Total visa application charge: \$115\***

2. While he is in Australia and before his Visitor visa expires, Fritz applies for and is granted, a further Visitor (subclass 600) visa.
  - Fritz has to pay the *base application charge* for this visa as the main applicant.
  - He does not have to pay the *subsequent temporary application charge* as it is not preceded by a visa that counts towards the application of this charge. In this example, Fritz's previous visa was granted outside Australia.
  - However, this visa counts towards any further temporary visa applications Fritz makes in Australia where the *subsequent temporary application charge* may apply.

Therefore, the visa application charge is made up of:

1 x *base application charge* of \$290 for the Fritz as the main applicant  
**Total visa application charge: \$290\***

**Note:** This visa is counted towards consideration of future subsequent temporary application charges.

3. Before the Visitor visa expires, Fritz applies for another Visitor (subclass 600) visa. This is the second temporary visa that Fritz has applied for while he is in Australia.
  - Fritz has to pay the *base application charge* for this visa as the main applicant.
  - Fritz now has to pay the *subsequent temporary application charge* as, (i) Fritz has applied for the visa while he is in Australia, (ii) the visa Fritz previously held was counted towards this charge, and (iii) the visa Fritz is applying for is liable for this charge.

The visa application charge is made up of:

1 x *base application charge* of \$290 for Fritz as the main applicant  
1 x *subsequent temporary application charge* of \$700 for the main applicant  
**Total visa application charge: \$990\***

**Note:** If Fritz had left Australia before the expiry of the first Visitor visa that he applied for in Australia, and applied for a further Visitor visa in his home country, the *subsequent temporary application charge* would not have applied.

To determine whether a visa is liable for, or counted towards, application of the subsequent temporary application charge, please see [www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/visa-pricing-table.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/visa-pricing-table.htm).

\* Prices are correct at time of release.

\* These examples are given for general illustration of the changes. There are a number of exemptions and variations in the fees and charges applicable, and you should consult the visa pricing table, [www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/visa-pricing-table.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/visa-pricing-table.htm), to verify which charges apply to you.