



# New Visa Pricing Arrangements

## Fact sheet for clients

### Introduction

New visa pricing arrangements came into effect on 1 July 2013 as part of a change to Australia's visa pricing model. The new visa pricing arrangements were first announced by the Australian Government in November 2011.

These changes form part of an overall program of initiatives, known as the Visa Pricing Transformation Program, which has introduced new visa services; a new visa pricing structure; and charges for discretionary services, such as visa labels.

The Visa Pricing Transformation Program plays a key role in progressing the department's provision of digital capability for enhanced services for clients.

For more information about the visa pricing arrangements, visit [www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/visa-pricing-table.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/visa-pricing-table.htm).

### Visa pricing changes

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 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 form, including fax, email, through a Service Delivery Partner, 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 lodged the 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 have the visa pricing changes been introduced?**

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 will impact most visas 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 is lodged and paid with the department. As of 1 July 2013, all 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.

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

However, 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. The charge will not be paid for newborns that are born after you lodge your application and before we have made a decision on the application. If you have a newborn we advise you to contact the department.

### **What applications will be affected?**

Applications for most visa subclasses will be affected by the visa pricing changes from 1 July 2013. However, ETAs, eVisitor visas and Refugee and Humanitarian visas will not be affected, nor will Citizenship applications.

### **How do I determine the cost of my visa application?**

Visa pricing tools are available at [www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges](http://www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges) 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.

You can 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/).

### **What other changes are coming?**

As a result of the Visa Pricing Transformation Program initiatives, the department is changing the way we deliver client services by improving the online capability we offer our clients.

This means a number of other process and system changes will be implemented from 2013. These include:

- improving our website with a new website design and improved visa-related content
- improvements to our Visa Entitlement Verifications Online (VEVO) system
- providing online accounts for our clients.

When the client service improvements are fully implemented, you will be able to apply quickly and easily for a range of Australian visas and view the status of a visa application online, anywhere, anytime. The online environment will be updated with simplified content and improved online help that is easy to understand. Eventually, you will have greater ability to self-manage your visa application and will have access to secure, convenient electronic payment channels that will be available globally.

### **Where can I find more information?**

For more information on the visa pricing changes, including fact sheets and frequently asked questions, see the department's website [www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges](http://www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges).

## 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 not** 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 18 years)  
**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.

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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.