

Global Immigration alert

July 2026

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Australia

Australia increases visa application charges and skilled visa income thresholds

Executive summary

Australia announced annual adjustments to charges and thresholds effective 1 July 2026, including increases to visa application charges and skilled visa income thresholds.

Key developments

Key developments include:

- **Increase to visa application charges:** A number of commonly used employer-sponsored visa application charges have been increased by up to 25%. This rate of increase was not foreshadowed by the Department of Home Affairs, with previous years seeing increases closer to the Consumer Price Index of around 3%.

Charges for applications for business sponsorship and nominations for temporary and permanent sponsored visas remain unchanged, as does the Skilling Australians Fund levy. The new application charges for the visa subclasses most regularly used by employers are:

- Skills in Demand visa (SID) (subclass 482): AUD4,015
- Employer Nomination Scheme visa (ENS) (subclass 186): AUD6,140
- Temporary Work (Short Stay Specialist) visa (subclass 400): AUD535

Employers may consider implementing cost sharing arrangements for visa application charges, noting this is permissible.

- **Skilled visa income thresholds:** The skilled visa income thresholds have increased by 3.8% and are slightly lower than earlier figures advised by the Department of Home Affairs.

The Core Skills Income Threshold (CSIT) and Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold (TSMIT) have increased to AUD79,423.

For new employer-sponsored nomination applications lodged on or after 1 July 2026, the minimum “annual earnings” (excluding superannuation guarantee contribution) to be paid to the visa holder and the Australian market salary rate for the nominated position must be at least AUD79,423.

The Specialist Skills Income Threshold (SSIT) is now AUD146,576.

There is no need to adjust the remuneration of existing temporary visa holders or that offered to nominees where the nomination application was lodged before 1 July 2026.

- **Fair Work High Income Threshold:** The Fair Work High Income Threshold (FWHIT) has also increased to AUD190,100. The FWHIT is relevant to age exemptions for employer-sponsored permanent residence.

Impact on employers

Employers should consider the impact of the revised visa application charges and income thresholds and update their internal policies and processes as required.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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