1 July 2026

MGA Statement on the 485 Visa Fee Increase

The Monash Graduate Association (MGA) is deeply concerned by the Federal Government's decision to sharply raise the 485 Temporary Graduate Visa fee again, from $4600 to $5750. This marks the second increase to the 485 visa fee this year: on the 1st of March 2026, the fee doubled overnight from $2300 to $4600. With this latest increase, the fee is now 2.5 times higher than the original, resulting in a 150% increase in just four months.

We have previously warned that raising the 485 visa fee without consulting both the higher education sector and student communities has serious consequences. These concerns include:

- Locking talented students out of contributing to Australia's economy and society after their training here.
- Screening graduates by wealth, rather than the skills and expertise they possess.
- Undermining Australia's global competitiveness among our counterparts, including Canada and the UK.
- Threatening Australia's fourth-largest export sector, worth $50 billion annually, with downstream consequences for university revenue, sector employment, research funding, and domestic student places.
- Weakening the skilled worker pipeline in essential industries including healthcare, education, agriculture and STEM – areas the Government itself has identified as national priorities.

Since the March increase, the MGA has met directly with federal MPs in our local electorates, and received correspondence from the Assistant Minister for International Education acknowledging our concerns and committing to monitor the impact. This latest increase, introduced without warning or consultation just months later, makes clear that those assurances have not translated into meaningful engagement with the sector.

As we did during the March fee hike, we strongly reiterate our call for the government to immediately reverse this decision and to recognise the essential contribution that international students and their families make to Australian society, culture and the economy.

Monash Graduate Association