



Jodie Belyea MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR DUNKLEY



25th May 2026

The Hon Tony Burke MP

Minister for Home Affairs

PO Box 6022, House of Representatives, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

The Hon Julian Hill MP

Assistant Minister for Citizenship, Customs and Multicultural Affairs

Assistant Minister for International Education

PO Box 6022, House of Representatives, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ministers Burke and Hill,

RE: Subclass 485 Temporary Graduate visa – application fee increases and impacts on graduates and skills pipelines

I am writing following a recent meeting with the Monash Graduate Association. With the Monash University Peninsula campus located in my electorate, it is important that I listen to the views and experiences of students and graduates and understand how Commonwealth settings are affecting them.

The Association raised serious concerns regarding the Albanese Labor Government's recent decision to increase the Subclass 485 (Temporary Graduate) visa application charge by 100 per cent - from \$2,300 to \$4,600 - effective 1 March 2026, via the *Migration Amendment (Temporary Graduate Visa Application Charge) Regulations 2026 (F2026L00163)*, with no notice of the change.

As you know, the Subclass 485 visa is the primary post-study pathway for international graduates to remain in Australia for 18 months to three years (depending on qualification). This period is critical for graduates to gain the Australian work experience often needed for subsequent skilled migration pathways or employer sponsorship - pathways that can be difficult to access immediately after graduation.

I am seeking further information about the basis for this decision, including whether the Government undertook consultation with affected cohorts, and whether any impact assessment was completed on the international education sector or on Australia's workforce pipeline - particularly in sectors with recognised skills shortages such as health and education.



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Stakeholders have raised concerns the abrupt change may undermine Australia's attractiveness as a destination for international students and reduce the supply of skilled graduates available to work in Australia after completing their studies. Students and graduates described the change as abrupt and difficult to absorb financially, particularly for those already facing high costs of living and study. One Monash graduate coursework student told me:

- Monash graduate coursework student

"I reside here with my family of four. Given the recent increase in charges, the cost for me to apply for the Temporary Graduate visa would be approximately \$13,000. As a PhD student, this presents a significant financial challenge, as it is often difficult to accumulate sufficient savings during the course of our studies."

- Monash PhD student

These stakeholder concerns sit alongside the broader contribution international education makes to Australia's economy and workforce. Stakeholders noted:

- International education contributed an estimated \$52 billion to the Australian economy in 2025 and supports more than 250,000 jobs.
- Jobs and Skills Australia's 2025 Occupation Shortage List indicates 31% of Skill Level 1 occupations (Bachelor's degree and above) are already experiencing shortages.
- Over the next decade, more than 20% of employment growth is projected to come from Skill Level 1 occupations - including strong growth in Health Care and Social Assistance and Education and Training.

In light of the above, I would appreciate your advice on the following:

1. What consultation was undertaken with international students, graduate representatives, universities and employers prior to implementing the fee increase?
2. Was an impact assessment conducted on (a) international student enrolments and the competitiveness of Australia's international education sector, and (b) Australia's skilled graduate pipeline - particularly for shortage sectors such as health and education?
3. Would the Government consider suspending the fee increase, or introducing mitigation measures, until the consequences for graduate cohorts and skills supply are better understood?
4. A transitional arrangement for students who commenced study, or are about to graduate, having planned on the previous fee settings?
5. A long-term exemption or targeted fee relief for graduates working in industries experiencing skills shortages (including health and education)?
6. Undertaking a comprehensive review of the Subclass 485 program in genuine consultation with international student communities, the higher education sector and employers to ensure optimal policy outcomes?



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I support a well-managed migration system, and I recognise the important role the temporary graduate pathway plays in enabling Australia to retain skills developed in our institutions - particularly where graduates can help meet workforce needs in areas of shortage.

Kind regards

Jodie Belyea
Federal MP for Dunkley

