

**AMBER MIGRATION NEWSLETTER**  
*29 June 2018*

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Welcome to **Amber Migration**'s final newsletter for the 2017-18 financial year. In this version, we update you on a few changes that will become effective on 1 July 2018.

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### **Global Talent Scheme**

In March 2018, the Government announced two pilot schemes targeted at supporting talent and innovation in Australia. These schemes are the **Global Talent Scheme** and **Supporting Innovation in South Australia**. Together, the government believes these schemes will support business growth, skills transfer and job creation by attracting highly-skilled global talent to help foster innovative businesses in Australia.

**Global Talent Scheme (GTS)** – to commence on 1 July 2018 and run for 12 months

GTS will be an additional stream under the newly implemented Temporary Skill Shortage (TSS – subclass 482) program. GTS has the following two streams:

- the *Established Business stream* that is for accredited sponsors that are publicly listed or have an annual turnover of at least \$4 million for each of the past two years; and
- the *Start-up stream* that is for start-up businesses operating in a technology based or STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) related field. Start-ups must be endorsed by the independent GTS startup advisory panel. To secure endorsement, the startup will need to satisfy at least one of these requirements: (i) the startup has received an investment of at least A\$50,000 from an investment fund registered as an Early Stage Venture Capital Limited Partnership; and (ii) the startup has received an Accelerating Commercialisation Grant at any time.

A subclass 482 - GTS stream visa is valid for up to 4 years and enables access to permanent residence pathway.

GTS is for employers to fill highly-skilled positions that cannot be filled by Australian workers and through other visa programs (especially the short-term and medium-term streams of the 482 TSS visa; Provisional and Permanent Skilled visas (such as subclass 489, 186 and 187) and Labour Agreements).

(**Amber Migration**'s note: Given that most (if not all) highly skilled occupations are covered under either of these visa programs, it is unclear how established employers can successfully access GTS. We have prepared this update based on information provided on DoHA's website and government media releases as relevant legislative instruments are not yet made available.)

The **Supporting Innovation in South Australia** Scheme will be a new stream under the 188 Business Innovation and Investment program. It is expected to be implemented later this year in South Australia, to be followed by a national roll-out in 2019.

### Application fees & credit card merchant fees increase on 1 July 2018

First instalment Visa Application Charges (VACs) will increase from 1 July 2018 by approximately 2.2%. The following table summarises current and new charges for company-sponsored applications:

Application charge	Current VAC			New VAC		
	Primary applicant	Secondary applicant (18+)	Secondary applicant (U18)	Primary applicant	Secondary applicant (18+)	Secondary applicant (U18)
186 ENS & 187 RSMS	3,670	1835	920	3,755	1,875	940
400 Temporary Work (Short Stay Specialist)	280	280	70	285	285	75
407 Training	280	280	70	285	285	75
408 Temporary Activity	280	280	70	285	285	75
482 TSS (Short-term)	1,150	1,150	290	1,175	1,175	295
482 TSS (Medium to Long-term)	2,400	2,400	600	2,455	2,455	615

Government lodgement fees are currently subject to a 0.98-1.99% credit card merchant fee. From 1 July 2018, credit card merchant fee for payments by Visa and Master cards will increase to 1.32%.

### Update on the Skilling Australians Fund (SAF) levy

SAF is expected to come into effect the first quarter of the 2018-2019 financial year.

As part of the transition towards the SAF levy arrangements, as of 18 March 2018, businesses are no longer required to demonstrate at sponsorship application stage that they have met the 'training benchmarks'.

If they are approved as a sponsor, they are, however, required to meet their training obligation for any future full year of their sponsorship where the SAF arrangements are not in effect.

If you have any questions concerning the information provided in this newsletter, please contact:

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