

Applying for an Australian visa can involve a number of fees and these vary greatly between migration agents. The Code of Conduct of the *Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority (MARA)* only requires that the fees be 'fair and reasonable'. However, the Code is very clear on the rules that migration agents must follow during the visa application process.

## 1. Initial Consultation Fee

This fee is charged for your first 45-60 minute meeting with a migration agent, when they will answer all your questions and explain in detail the options available to you. This may happen in person, by phone, or by videoconference. **The fee can vary greatly**, with some agents charging several hundred dollars and others offering this for free. Some agents will waive this fee if you sign a service agreement with them after the consultation. **Agents are legally bound to tell you their consultation fee in writing** before you agree to the meeting.

Our initial consultation fee: **\$100**

Waived upon sign-up? **Yes**

Prior to consultation: **Free 5-minute phone evaluation to assess eligibility**

## 2. Visa Application Fee

This is the fee **charged by the Department of Home Affairs** for the visa type you are applying for. Some visas cost a few hundred dollars, while others cost many thousands. The fees change from time to time, but you can always find **a list of current pricing on the Department's website**. Generally, this is a one-off payment made through your agent at the time of visa lodgement.

## 3. Agent Service Fee

This varies greatly, and depends on your visa type, the complexity of your case, and the agent you choose. Some agents charge 3-4 times more than others for the same visa subclass, and agents that are also qualified lawyers may charge a higher fee. **Make sure you do your research and ask questions of several agents before signing** a service agreement. Also, some agents charge per hour and some charge per service (i.e. one overall fee). **Agents are legally bound to provide a written *Agreement for Services and Fees* prior to engagement**. Any proposed changes to these fees must be given in writing before the additional work is carried out.

#### 4. Disbursements

There can be various **additional expenses involved in the visa process**, such as medical examination fees and police clearance application fees. These fees should be outlined in the initial *Agreement for Services and Fees*.

#### 5. Clients' Account

Most agents will charge you before their services are completed. This money must be held in a special bank account called a *clients' account*. **It can only be used to pay for something on your behalf**, such as disbursements and the visa application fee. The agent cannot take money from this account for their professional fees **until they have completed their service** (e.g. lodged the visa application) and provided you with an invoice.

***Always ask questions and do your research before signing a service agreement with a migration agent.***

If you wish to discuss your visa options and the relevant fees at **KP Migration**, please contact **Kiseon** on **0466 626 918** or [kiseon@kpmigration.com.au](mailto:kiseon@kpmigration.com.au)