

## SKILLING AUSTRALIANS FUND LEVY FACT SHEET (March 2025)

Employers who nominate workers for certain temporary or permanent skilled work visas are required to pay an upfront levy to the **Skilling Australians Fund (SAF)**. Nominations for the following visas attract the SAF levy:

- Subclass **482 Skills in Demand (SID) visa** (*previously known as the Temporary Skill Shortage visa*)
- Subclass **494 Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) (SESR) visa**
- Subclass **186 Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) visa**

The SAF is administered by the **Department of Education and Training**, and provides funding for apprenticeships and traineeships in occupations that are in short supply and currently rely on skilled migration, or have future growth potential.

### Skilling Australians Fund Levy Information

The SAF levy **must be paid by the employer nominating the position at the time that the nomination is lodged**. It cannot be transferred or otherwise recovered from a visa applicant or any other party.

#### Nominations for Subclass 482 SID visas and 457 visas

For these visas, the SAF levy varies with the employer's annual turnover and the nominated visa period.

The SAF levy for employers with an **annual turnover of LESS THAN AU\$10 million is AU\$1,200 for EACH** year of the nominated visa applicant's proposed period of stay in Australia.

The SAF levy for employers with an annual turnover of **AT LEAST AU\$10 million is AU\$1,800 for EACH year** of the nominated visa applicant's proposed period of stay.

The table below sets out the current applicable SAF levy for the various subclass 482 SID and 457 nominated visa periods:

Skilling Australians Fund Levy Amounts: Subclass 482 SID & 457 Nominations		
Nominated Visa Period:	Employer's Annual Turnover: <AU\$10 million	Employer's Annual Turnover: >AU\$10 million
One year	AU\$1,200	AU\$1,800
Two years	AU\$2,400	AU\$3,600
Three years	AU\$3,600	AU\$5,400
Four years	AU\$4,800	AU\$7,200

## Skilling Australians Fund Levy Information cont.

### Nominations for Subclass 494 SESR and 186 ENS visas

There is a **one-off SAF levy** for the provisional subclass 494 SESR visa and permanent subclass 186 ENS visa, which varies with the employer's annual turnover.

The table below sets out the current applicable SAF levy for subclass 494 SESR and 186 ENS nominations:

Skilling Australians Fund Levy Amounts: Subclass 494 SESR and 186 ENS Nominations	
Employer's Annual Turnover: <AU\$10 million	Employer's Annual Turnover: >AU\$10 million
AU\$3,000 per nomination (one-off payment)	AU\$5,000 per nomination (one-off payment)

**NOTES:** If a subclass 494 SESR visa holder changes employer, a pro-rated SAF levy is payable by the new sponsoring employer at the nomination stage for the remaining visa period of the subclass 494 SESR visa.

The **SAF levy is indexed** and adjusted annually on 1 July.

The **Department of Home Affairs** (the **DOHA**) applies a **surcharge to levies paid by credit/debit card or PayPal**. The surcharge is a percentage of the SAF levy, and is based on the payment method used.

The SAF levy is NOT required for the **occupations of Minister of Religion or Religious Assistant** when nominated under the Labour Agreement stream for ANY of these visa subclasses.

## SAF Refund Eligibility

The SAF levy *may* be refunded to the employer, in certain limited circumstances. For example, the DOHA *may* refund the SAF levy where the nomination or sponsorship has been withdrawn; the applicant fails to commence employment; or the related visa application is refused on health or character grounds (please note that this list is not exhaustive). In ALL cases, **the refund may only be paid to the payer of the SAF levy**.

Please contact our office should you require further details regarding specific, permissible refund arrangements.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Does our business need to pay the SAF levy every time we nominate a position?

**Yes**, the nominating employer must pay the SAF levy at the time that the relevant position nomination is lodged with the DOHA.

### Can our business pass this SAF levy on to the visa applicant, or recoup/deduct it from their wages?

**No**. The SAF levy must be paid by the employer nominating the position, and cannot be recovered or otherwise transferred to the visa applicant, or any other party.

## Frequently Asked Questions cont.

**The person who paid the SAF levy, using their credit card, has left our business. Can the DOHA refund the SAF levy to another person?**

**No.** You will need to arrange for the individual who paid the SAF levy to have the refund transferred back to your business upon his/her receipt of the refunded monies.

Do you have additional questions regarding the Skilling Australians Fund Levy or the visas affected? Please feel free to contact us by email at [support@dojolegal.com.au](mailto:support@dojolegal.com.au), or by phone on **+61 2 9138 0688**

**THANK YOU!**



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