



INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

Tuition fee for 457 Visas holders whose children attend public schools in Western Australia

In 2015 the Western Australian Government is introducing a tuition fee for families on 457 Visas (temporary skilled workers) whose children attend public schools in this State.

Tuition fee as a contribution to the cost of education

The Western Australian Government has, to date, provided free public education to dependants of 457 Visa holders. The Government has now determined that all 457 Visa holders will contribute to the cost of educating their children in public schools through a tuition fee. The average estimated cost of educating a child in 2014-15 is \$14 833 in a public primary school and \$19 363 in a public secondary school.

The tuition fee is \$4000 for each family each year regardless of the number of children you have enrolled in public schools. The tuition fee comes into effect for current and new enrolments in public schools from January 2015.

Your children have the same entitlements as other local children, including enrolment in your local schools.

Paying the tuition fee

You will receive an invoice for \$4000 from the Department of Training and Workforce Development's Education and Training International at the beginning of the school year. You can select to pay the tuition fee upfront or in instalments (weekly, fortnightly or monthly) via direct debit.

There is no restriction on who pays the tuition fee – for example your employer can pay the fee.

If your children leave public schools or your visa status changes so you are no longer eligible to pay the tuition fee, you will need to apply for a refund for any payments you have made in advance.

For example, if you have applied for permanent residency you will need to pay the tuition fee until permanent residency is attained. If you were on a 457 Visa but are now on a Bridging Visa you will need to continue to pay the tuition fee as people on Bridging Visas revert to the conditions and entitlements of their previous substantive visa.



Financial hardship provisions

Once you receive your invoice, you can apply to have the tuition fee reduced or waived under two financial hardship provisions.

The first provision is based on combined family income. If your combined family income is \$75 000 or less (gross) a year then you are not required to pay the tuition fee. If your combined family income is \$75 001 or more (gross) a year you are required to pay the tuition fee of \$4000 a year regardless of the number of children attending public schools.

To have the tuition fee waived if your combined family income is \$75 000 or less (gross) a year, you need to provide evidence of this income each year. Income for your first year in Australia will be based on the remuneration stated on your 457 Visa grant notice; thereafter your gross annual combined family income reported in group certificates and/or estimated from three pay slips will be used. You will need to apply each year to have the tuition fee waived based on your income.

The second financial hardship provision is a full or partial fee waiver where you can provide evidence of unforeseen changes in your financial circumstances including illness, unemployment, family breakdown and death. Applications will be considered on a case by case basis and any waiver only applies for the period where you do not have the capacity to pay the tuition fee; it is not ongoing.

You will be notified of the outcome of your application between four and six weeks after all required documentation has been provided to Education and Training International.

Updating your visa status

It is important to ensure you update your school with any changes to your visa status. This will ensure the tuition fee is ceased if you are no longer required to pay and you can apply to be refunded for any payments you have made in advance.

Further information

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