

Ministerial Submission

Cleared by: Lucelle Veneros
Date sent to MO: 14 May 2024

FOR: Senator the Hon Penny Wong
INFO: The Hon Tim Watts MP

Action Requested By: 14 June 2024
Reason for Urgency: Amendments must be registered before 30 June for MYEFO fee measures to take effect from 1 July 2024.

Mid-Year Economic & Fiscal Outlook Passport Fees Legislation Amendment Determination

Key Issues: As part of the Government's Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO), Cabinet approved two measures related to passport application fees: a 15 per cent increase to travel document application fee; and a fast track processing fee. Both will be announced in the federal Budget on 14 May 2024 and take effect from 1 July 2024. Amendments are required to the Australian Passports (Application Fees) Determination 2015 (Fees Determination) and the Australian Passports Determination 2015 (Passports Determination).	
Recommendation: That you: a) Agree to amend the Fees Determination and the Passports Determination to provide for the 15 per cent application fee increase; b) Agree to amend the Fees Determination and the Passports to introduce the fast track processing fee from 1 July 2024; c) Sign the Australian Passports (Application Fees) Amendment Determination 2024 (Fees Amendment) at Attachment A, and the Australian Passports (Fees) Amendment Determination 2024 (Passports Amendment) at Attachment B; d) Agree to the text of the combined Explanatory Statement to the Fees Amendment and the Passports Amendment at Attachment C.	Decision: <u>Agreed / Not Agreed</u> <u>Agreed / Not Agreed</u> <u>Signed / Not Signed</u> <u>Agreed / Not Agreed</u>
Domestic/Media Considerations: Nil Action: Penny Wong / /	
Information: Tim Watts / /	
From: Executive Director, Lucelle Veneros APO s 22(1)(a)(ii)	
Contact: Tori Lamb Assistant Secretary, Strategy and Modernisation M s 22(1)(a)(ii)	
Can this proposal be funded from within your existing <u>divisional</u> allocation (departmental/aid)? Not Applicable If the proposal high risk/high value (over \$100m) concept has been approved by the Development Program Committee? Not Applicable	
Consultation: LGD, IMD, Department of Finance, Attorney-General's Department	

Background:

Cabinet agreed to a 15 per cent increase to travel document application fees in the 2023–24 MYEFO. This will apply to application fees and additional fees for Australian passports and non-citizen travel documents. The measure will raise an estimated \$349 million dollars over three years from 2024–25. Revenue raised from the measure will support priorities in the Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio.

2. To enable this increase, subsections 5(3) and 6(3) of the Application Fees Determination must be amended under the Australian Passports (Application Fees) Amendment Determination 2024. This amendment will list the 15 per cent fee increase payable from 1 July 2024 and apply rounding provided for in the Application Fees Determination. Annual indexation, assessable on 1 January each subsequent calendar year, will be retained.

3. A fast track processing fee is scheduled to be announced in the Budget on 14 May 2024. This new fee will guarantee issue of an Australian travel document within five days of an application being received at the Australian Passport Office. The fee will be introduced at \$100. The measure is estimated to generate revenue of \$20.2 million over three years from 2024–25, and ongoing revenue of \$7.2 million per annum from 2027–28. Annual indexation, assessable on 1 January each subsequent calendar year, will apply.

4. To allow for the new fast track processing fee, both the Fees Determination and the Passports Determination must be amended, through the Australian Passports (Fees) Amendment Determination 2024. These amendments will:

- include a fast track processing fee at subsection 6(3) of the Fees Determination,
- allow a customer to upgrade from fast track processing (five business days) to priority processing (two business days) by paying the difference between the two fees
- permit the department to issue refunds of the fast track processing fee or the upgrade fee if a travel document is not issued within the prescribed timeframe
- provide the ability to waive or refund the fast track processing fee or the upgrade fee when the Minister is satisfied there are compassionate grounds.

5. Amendment to the Fees Determination and the Passports Determination must be finalised before 30 June 2024 for the MYEFO measures to commence on 1 July 2024. Once signed, the amendments will be registered on the Federal Register of Legislation. The instruments will be subject to disallowance.



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ministerial Submission

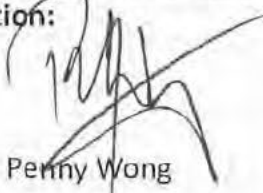
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Recommendation: That you: a) Agree to amend the Fees Determination and the Passports Determination to provide for the 15 per cent application fee increase; b) Agree to amend the Fees Determination and the Passports to introduce the fast track processing fee from 1 July 2024; c) Sign the Australian Passports (Application Fees) Amendment Determination 2024 (Fees Amendment) at Attachment A, and the Australian Passports (Fees) Amendment Determination 2024 (Passports Amendment) at Attachment B; d) Agree to the text of the combined Explanatory Statement to the Fees Amendment and the Passports Amendment at Attachment C.	Decision: <u>Agreed / Not Agreed</u> <u>Agreed / Not Agreed</u> <u>Signed / Not Signed</u> <u>Agreed / Not Agreed</u>
Domestic/Media Considerations: Nil Action:  Penny Wong 28/5/24	
Information: Tim Watts / /	Note
From: Executive Director, Lucelle Veneros APO s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Contact: Tori Lamb Assistant Secretary, Strategy and Modernisation s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Can this proposal be funded from within your existing <u>divisional</u> allocation (departmental/aid)? Not Applicable If the proposal high risk/high value (over \$100m) concept has been approved by the Development Program Committee? Not Applicable	
Consultation: LGD, IMD, Department of Finance, Attorney-General's Department	

**Background:**

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2. To enable this increase, subsections 5(3) and 6(3) of the Application Fees Determination must be amended under the Australian Passports (Application Fees) Amendment Determination 2024. This amendment will list the 15 per cent fee increase payable from 1 July 2024 and apply rounding provided for in the Application Fees Determination. Annual indexation, assessable on 1 January each subsequent calendar year, will be retained.

3. A fast track processing fee is scheduled to be announced in the Budget on 14 May 2024. This new fee will guarantee issue of an Australian travel document within five days of an application being received at the Australian Passport Office. The fee will be introduced at \$100. The measure is estimated to generate revenue of \$20.2 million over three years from 2024–25, and ongoing revenue of \$7.2 million per annum from 2027–28. Annual indexation, assessable on 1 January each subsequent calendar year, will apply.

4. To allow for the new fast track processing fee, both the Fees Determination and the Passports Determination must be amended, through the Australian Passports (Fees) Amendment Determination 2024. These amendments will:

- include a fast track processing fee at subsection 6(3) of the Fees Determination,
- allow a customer to upgrade from fast track processing (five business days) to priority processing (two business days) by paying the difference between the two fees
- permit the department to issue refunds of the fast track processing fee or the upgrade fee if a travel document is not issued within the prescribed timeframe
- provide the ability to waive or refund the fast track processing fee or the upgrade fee when the Minister is satisfied there are compassionate grounds.

5. Amendment to the Fees Determination and the Passports Determination must be finalised before 30 June 2024 for the MYEFO measures to commence on 1 July 2024. Once signed, the amendments will be registered on the Federal Register of Legislation. The instruments will be subject to disallowance.

Background:

1. Instruments to amend the Australian Passports Determination 2015 (the Passports Determination) and the Australian Passports (Application Fees) Determination 2015 (the Fees Determination) were registered on the Federal Register of Legislation on 4 June 2024.
2. The disallowable instruments implement the Government's budget decision to increase passport fees by 15 per cent from 1 July 2024, and introduce a fast track (5-day) expedited processing fee.
3. The instruments and Explanatory Statement were reviewed by the Senate Committee for the Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation (the Committee) in accordance with Senate Standing Order 23 - Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation (the Standing Order).
4. The Committee identified a drafting error (cross-referencing) in the Australian Passports (Application Fees) Amendment Determination 2024. The minor error is at subsection 6(3), table item 3 (table item 3), which provides for a person to upgrade from fast track processing to priority (2-day) expedited processing by paying the fee identified at this part.
 - a. The numeric cross references for priority processing and fast track processing were inverted. However, as the substantive text at table item 3 correctly describes the kind of application, priority or fast track, the provision has operated as intended since the new fee came into effect.
5. The cross-referencing error is corrected by **Attachment A**, the Australian Passports (Application Fees) Amendment Determination (No. 2) 2024 (the Amendment Determination). This will provide additional clarity that, in paying the fee in table item 3, column 3, the person is upgrading from fast tracked processing to priority processing. **Attachment A** is supplemented by **Attachment B** - Explanatory Statement for the Amendment Determination.
6. **Attachment C** - Supplementary Explanatory Statement for the Australian Passports (Application Fees) Amendment Determination 2024 and Australian Passports (Fees) Amendment Determination 2024 (the Supplementary ES) resolves the Committee's feedback on the Explanatory Statement for the instruments (**Attachment D**).
 - a. The Committee's feedback related to the following principles of the Standing Order:
 - i. those likely to be affected by the instrument were adequately consulted in relation to it, and
 - ii. [the instrument] contains matters more appropriate for parliamentary enactment.
7. Regarding 23(3)(d) of the Standing Order, consultation, the fee increase and introduction of the fast track processing fee were subject to a cabinet decision.
 - a. While consultation was undertaken with respect of the cabinet decision, the Australian Passport Office (APO) did not include this information in the original Explanatory Statement as the information is classified as Cabinet-In-Confidence. APO instead advised, consistent with prior fee amendments, that consultation was undertaken with the Department of Finance. APO has obtained approval to include generic text about cabinet consultation in the Supplementary ES.
8. The Committee asked, in the context of 23(3)(j) of the Standing Order, whether it was appropriate for the Minister to introduce a new tax, and whether that tax should be implemented by way of an instrument rather than the normal parliamentary process.



a. Under the *Australian Passports (Application Fees) Act 2005* (the Fees Act), passport fees are imposed as taxes. The Fees Act provides that the type of fees may be specified in a Minister's Determination. The Explanatory Memorandum for the Australian Passports (Application Fees) Bill 2004 explains that the details of any changes to application fees (other than ordinary CPI adjustments) will be settled as part of the annual Budget process. This information has been replicated in the Supplementary ES for clarity.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Ministerial Submission

Cleared by: Bridget Brill

Date sent to MO: 17 November 2022

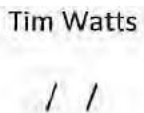
FOR: Senator the Hon Penny Wong, The Hon Tim Watts MP

Action Requested By: 9 December 2022

INFO: Senator the Hon Don Farrell

Reason for Urgency: Not applicable

Passport fee increase on 1 January 2023

Key Issues: The <i>Australian Passports (Application Fees) Determination 2015</i> automatically increases passport and other travel document fees every year on 1 January to reflect movement in the Consumer Price Index. On 1 January 2023, the adult 10-year passport fee will increase from \$308 to \$325. The cost of a five-year passport will go up from \$155 to \$164. The priority processing fee will rise from \$225 to \$237. As we do every year, in late December 2022, we will post the new fee schedule on our website and Australia Post will put up posters at its outlets that show the new fees. We will not otherwise publicise the increase.	
Recommendation: That you: a) Note the new fees that will apply from 1 January 2023. b) Note the attached media talking points.	Decision: <u>Noted</u> <u>Noted</u>
Domestic/Media Considerations: The increase in fees is likely to attract criticism, particularly due to the increased cost of living and the recent delays in passport issuance. Media talking points are attached. Action:  Penny Wong 22/11/22  Tim Watts / /	
Information: Don Farrell / /	Noted
From: Bridget Brill, Executive Director, APO s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Contact: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Director, PCS/SRB/APO, s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Can this proposal be funded from within your existing <u>divisional</u> allocation (departmental/aid)? Not Applicable If the proposal high risk/high value (over \$100m) concept has been approved by the Aid Governance Board? Not Applicable Consultation: Dep Sec Maclachlan	

Background:

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Under the *Australian Passports Act 2005*, Australians are entitled to a passport if they can prove their identity and citizenship, apply on the prescribed form and pay the applicable fee. The *Australian Passports (Application Fees) Act 2005* establishes a framework for Australian travel document fees, including that they are imposed as taxes and need not bear any relationship to the cost to the Government of producing a travel document. The *Australian Passports (Application Fees) Determination 2015* ('the Determination') sets the specific amount of each fee. Since 2011, the Determination (in its previous and current forms) has provided that the fees are automatically indexed for inflation on 1 January every year.

2. The indexation uses a formula based on the All Groups Consumer Price Index, a weighted average of eight capital cities published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Fee increases are rounded to the nearest whole dollar. The fees that will apply from 1 January 2023 are:

	Fee from 1 Jan 2022	Free from 1 Jan 2023	Increase
Passports			
Adult	\$308.00	\$325.00	\$17.00
Child	\$155.00	\$164.00	\$9.00
Child aged 16 or 17	\$308.00	\$325.00	\$17.00
Senior	\$155.00	\$164.00	\$9.00
Emergency	\$193.00	\$204.00	\$11.00
Replacement	\$193.00	\$204.00	\$11.00
Official	\$308.00	\$325.00	\$17.00
Diplomatic	\$308.00	\$325.00	\$17.00
Observation made on passport after issue	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$1.00
Other travel documents and services			
Certificate of identity	\$193.00	\$204.00	\$11.00
Document of identity	\$81.00	\$85.00	\$4.00
UN Convention Travel Document	\$193.00	\$204.00	\$11.00
Provisional Travel Document	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Priority Processing	\$225.00	\$237.00	\$12.00
Overseas surcharge			
Adult	\$138.00	\$146.00	\$8.00
Child	\$67.00	\$71.00	\$4.00
Senior	\$138.00	\$146.00	\$8.00

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Ministerial Submission

Cleared by: Lucelle Veneros

Date sent to MO: 17 November 2023

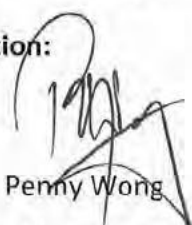
Action Requested By: 1 December 2023

Reason for Urgency: Not Applicable

FOR: Senator the Hon Penny Wong, The Hon Tim Watts MP

INFO: Senator the Hon Don Farrell

Passport and notarial services fees increase on 1 January 2024

Key Issues: Under legislation, passport, other travel documents and notarial services fees increase each year on 1 January to reflect movement in the Consumer Price Index. On 1 January 2024, the adult 10-year passport fee will increase from \$325 to \$346. The fee for issuing apostille or authentication certificates will increase from \$92 to \$98. On 1 January 2024, the department will publish the new passport fees on the APO website and the new notarial services fees on Smartraveller. Australia Post will display posters at its outlets showing the new passport fees. We will not otherwise publicise these fee increases.	
Recommendation: That you: a) Note the new passport and notarial services fees that will apply from 1 January 2024 (Attachment A).	Decision: <u>Noted</u>
Domestic/Media Considerations: These fee increases will likely attract negative media and public commentary, particularly with the cost-of-living pressures facing Australians. Suggested media talking points will be provided separately to your office.	
Action:  Penny Wong 15/12/23	Tim Watts / /
Information: Don Farrell / /	<u>Noted</u>
From: Lucelle Veneros, Executive Director, ISG APO s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Contact: s 22(1)(a)(ii), Director, PCS/SRB/APO. s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Can this proposal be funded from within your existing <u>divisional</u> allocation (departmental/aid)? Not Applicable If the proposal high risk/high value (over \$100m) concept has been approved by the Aid Governance Board? Not Applicable	
Consultation: CCD, FND	

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Background:

Under the *Australian Passports Act 2005*, Australians are entitled to a passport if they can prove their identity and citizenship, apply on the prescribed form and pay the applicable fee.

2. The *Australian Passports (Application Fees) Act 2005* establishes a framework for Australian travel document fees, including that the fees are imposed as taxes and need not bear any relationship to the cost of producing a travel document.

3. The *Australian Passports (Application Fees) Determination 2015* ('the Determination') sets the specific amount of each fee. Since 2011, the Determination (in its previous and current forms) has provided that the fees are indexed for inflation on 1 January every year.

4. The *Consular Fees Act 1955* determines who can perform notarial services in Australia and overseas and that a fee must be paid. The *Consular Fees Regulations* ('the Regulations') 2018 sets the specific amount of each fee. Since 2016, the Regulations have provided that the fees are indexed for inflation on 1 January every year.

5. The indexation of Australian travel document and notarial services fees uses a formula based on the All Groups Consumer Price Index, a weighted average of eight capital cities published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Fee increases are rounded to the nearest whole dollar. The fees that will apply from 1 January 2024 are in **Attachment A**.

6. Australian travel document fees are publicly reported as being one of the most expensive based on direct dollar fee comparison. The annual increase in fees could result in media or public scrutiny. Separately, we will provide talking points to your office that can be drawn upon in response to enquiries.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ministerial Submission

Cleared by: Lucelle Veneros

Date sent to MO: 25 November 2024

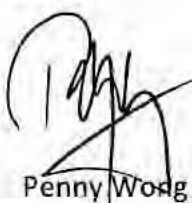
Action Requested By: 13 December 2024

Reason for Urgency: Not applicable

FOR: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

INFO: The Hon Tim Watts MP

Passport and notarial services fee increases on 1 January 2025

Key Issues: Under legislation, fees for passports, other travel documents and notarial services increase each year on 1 January to reflect Consumer Price Index movements. On 1 January 2025, the adult 10-year passport fee will increase from \$398 to \$412 and the fee for apostille or authentication certificates will increase from \$98 to \$102. On 1 January 2025, DFAT will publish the new fees for passports and for notarial services on the Australian Passport Office and Smartraveller websites respectively. Australia Post outlets will also display posters showing the new passport fees.	
Recommendation: That you: a) Note the new passport and notarial service fees that will apply from 1 January 2025 (Attachment A).	Decision: <u>Noted</u>
Domestic/Media Considerations: The 2025 fee increase is likely to attract public and media commentary, particularly following the 1 July 2024 one-off fee increase. Media talking points will be provided separately to your office. Action:  Penny Wong 13/12/24	
Information Tim Watts / /	Noted
From: Lucelle Veneros, Executive Director, APO, Tel: (02) 6178 5451; s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Contact: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Director, PCS/SRB/APO, s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Can this proposal be funded from within your existing <u>divisional</u> allocation (departmental/aid)? Not Applicable If the proposal high risk/high value (over \$100m) concept has been approved by the Development Program Committee? Not Applicable	
Consultation: FND; IMD; Australia Post	

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Background:

Under the *Australian Passports Act 2005*, Australians are entitled to a passport if they can prove their identity and citizenship, apply on the prescribed form and pay the applicable fee.

2. The *Australian Passports (Application Fees) Act 2005* establishes a framework for Australian travel document fees, including that the fees are imposed as taxes and need not bear any relationship to the cost of producing a travel document.
3. The *Australian Passports (Application Fees) Determination 2015* (the *Determination*) sets the specific amount of each fee. Since 2011, the *Determination* has provided that the fees are indexed for inflation on 1 January every year.
4. The *Consular Fees Act 1955* determines who can perform notarial services in Australia and overseas and that a fee must be paid. The *Consular Fees Regulations 2018* (the *Regulations*) sets the specific amount of each fee. Since 2016, the *Regulations* have provided that the fees are indexed for inflation on 1 January every year.
5. The indexation of Australian travel document and notarial service fees uses a formula based on the All Groups Consumer Price Index, a weighted average of eight capital cities published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Fee increases are rounded to the nearest whole dollar. The fees that will apply from 1 January 2025 are at **Attachment A**.
6. Based on a direct dollar fee comparison, the Australian passport is regularly referred to in the media as one of the world's most expensive. As the last passport fee increase was on 1 July 2024, this next increase will likely attract public and media commentary. Talking points will be provided separately to your office.

OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Ministerial Submission

Cleared by: Troy Kaizik

Date sent to MO: 17 November 2025

Action Requested By: 8 December 2025

Reason for Urgency: Not Applicable.

FOR: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

INFO: The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP

Passport and notarial services fees increase on 1 January 2026

Key Issues: Under legislation, fees for passports, other travel documents and notarial services increase annually on 1 January to reflect movements in the Consumer Price Index. On 1 January 2026, the adult 10-year passport fee will increase from \$412 to \$422, and the fee for apostille or authentication certificates will increase from \$102 to \$105. On 1 January 2026, DFAT will publish the new fees for passports and for notarial services on the Australian Passport Office and Smartraveller websites respectively. Australia Post outlets will also display posters showing the new passport fees.	
Recommendation: That you: a) Note the new passport and notarial service fees that will apply from 1 January 2026 (Attachment A).	Decision: <u>Noted</u>
Domestic/Media Considerations: The 2026 fee increase is likely to attract public and media commentary. Media talking points will be provided separately to your office. Information:  Penny Wong 5/12/25 <u>Noted</u>	
Information: Matt Thistlethwaite / / <u>Noted</u>	
From: Troy Kaizik, A/E Executive Director, APO - Australian Passport Office ISG s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Contact: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Can this proposal be funded from within your existing <u>divisional</u> allocation (departmental/aid)? Yes If the proposal high risk/high value (over \$100m) concept has been approved by the Development Program Committee? Not Applicable	
Consultation: FND; IMD; Australia Post	

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**Background:**

Under the *Australian Passports Act 2005*, Australians are entitled to a passport if they can prove their identity and citizenship, apply on the prescribed form and pay the applicable fee.

2. The *Australian Passports (Application Fees) Act 2005* establishes a framework for Australian travel document fees, including that the fees are imposed as taxes and need not bear any relationship to the cost of producing a travel document.

3. The *Australian Passports (Application Fees) Determination 2015* (the Determination) sets the specific fee amounts. Since 2011, the Determination has provided that the fees are indexed for inflation on 1 January every year.

4. The *Consular Fees Act 1955* determines who can perform notarial services in Australia and overseas and requires that a fee must be paid for these services. The *Consular Fees Regulations 2018* (the Regulations) sets the specific amount of each fee. Since 2016, the Regulations have provided that the fees are indexed for inflation on 1 January every year.

5. The indexation of Australian travel document and notarial service fees uses a formula based on the All Groups Consumer Price Index, a weighted average of eight capital cities published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Fee increases are rounded to the nearest whole dollar. The fees that will apply from 1 January 2026 are at **Attachment A**.

6. Based on a direct dollar fee comparison, the Australian passport is regularly referred to in the media as one of the world's most expensive. The last passport fee increase was on 1 January 2025. This increase will likely attract public and media commentary.



Ministerial Submission

Cleared by: Bridget Brill

Date sent to MO: 17 November 2022

FOR: Senator the Hon Penny Wong, The Hon Tim Watts MP

Action Requested By: 9 December 2022

INFO: Senator the Hon Don Farrell

Reason for Urgency: Not applicable

Passport fee increase on 1 January 2023

Key Issues: The <i>Australian Passports (Application Fees) Determination 2015</i> automatically increases passport and other travel document fees every year on 1 January to reflect movement in the Consumer Price Index. On 1 January 2023, the adult 10-year passport fee will increase from \$308 to \$325. The cost of a five-year passport will go up from \$155 to \$164. The priority processing fee will rise from \$225 to \$237. As we do every year, in late December 2022, we will post the new fee schedule on our website and Australia Post will put up posters at its outlets that show the new fees. We will not otherwise publicise the increase.	
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Information: Don Farrell / /	
From: Bridget Brill, Executive Director, APO s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Contact: s 22(1)(a)(ii) , Director, PCS/SRB/APO, s 22(1)(a)(ii)
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Consultation: Dep Sec Maclachlan	

Background:



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2. The indexation uses a formula based on the All Groups Consumer Price Index, a weighted average of eight capital cities published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Fee increases are rounded to the nearest whole dollar. The fees that will apply from 1 January 2023 are:

	Fee from 1 Jan 2022	Free from 1 Jan 2023	Increase
Passports			
Adult	\$308.00	\$325.00	\$17.00
Child	\$155.00	\$164.00	\$9.00
Child aged 16 or 17	\$308.00	\$325.00	\$17.00
Senior	\$155.00	\$164.00	\$9.00
Emergency	\$193.00	\$204.00	\$11.00
Replacement	\$193.00	\$204.00	\$11.00
Official	\$308.00	\$325.00	\$17.00
Diplomatic	\$308.00	\$325.00	\$17.00
Observation made on passport after issue	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$1.00
Other travel documents and services			
Certificate of identity	\$193.00	\$204.00	\$11.00
Document of identity	\$81.00	\$85.00	\$4.00
UN Convention Travel Document	\$193.00	\$204.00	\$11.00
Provisional Travel Document	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Priority Processing	\$225.00	\$237.00	\$12.00
Overseas surcharge			
Adult	\$138.00	\$146.00	\$8.00
Child	\$67.00	\$71.00	\$4.00
Senior	\$138.00	\$146.00	\$8.00

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Ministerial Submission

Cleared by: Bridget Brill

Date sent to MO: 17 November 2022

FOR: Senator the Hon Penny Wong, The Hon Tim Watts MP

Action Requested By: 9 December 2022

INFO: Senator the Hon Don Farrell

Reason for Urgency: Not applicable

Passport fee increase on 1 January 2023

Key Issues: The *Australian Passports (Application Fees) Determination 2015* automatically increases passport and other travel document fees every year on 1 January to reflect movement in the Consumer Price Index. On 1 January 2023, the adult 10-year passport fee will increase from \$308 to \$325. The cost of a five-year passport will go up from \$155 to \$164. The priority processing fee will rise from \$225 to \$237. As we do every year, in late December 2022, we will post the new fee schedule on our website and Australia Post will put up posters at its outlets that show the new fees. We will not otherwise publicise the increase.

Recommendation:

That you:

- a) Note the new fees that will apply from 1 January 2023.
- b) Note the attached media talking points.

Decision:NotedNoted

Domestic/Media Considerations: The increase in fees is likely to attract criticism, particularly due to the increased cost of living and the recent delays in passport issuance. Media talking points are attached.

Action:

Penny Wong

/ /

Tim Watts

22/11/22

Information:Noted

Don Farrell

/ /

From: Bridget Brill, Executive Director, APO
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Contact: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Director, PCS/SRB/APO.
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Can this proposal be funded from within your existing divisional allocation (departmental/aid)? Not Applicable

If the proposal high risk/high value (over \$100m) concept has been approved by the Aid Governance Board? Not Applicable

Consultation: Dep Sec MacLachlan

Background:

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Under the *Australian Passports Act 2005*, Australians are entitled to a passport if they can prove their identity and citizenship, apply on the prescribed form and pay the applicable fee. The *Australian Passports (Application Fees) Act 2005* establishes a framework for Australian travel document fees, including that they are imposed as taxes and need not bear any relationship to the cost to the Government of producing a travel document. The *Australian Passports (Application Fees) Determination 2015* ('the Determination') sets the specific amount of each fee. Since 2011, the Determination (in its previous and current forms) has provided that the fees are automatically indexed for inflation on 1 January every year.

2. The indexation uses a formula based on the All Groups Consumer Price Index, a weighted average of eight capital cities published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Fee increases are rounded to the nearest whole dollar. The fees that will apply from 1 January 2023 are:

	Fee from 1 Jan 2022	Free from 1 Jan 2023	Increase
Passports			
Adult	\$308.00	\$325.00	\$17.00
Child	\$155.00	\$164.00	\$9.00
Child aged 16 or 17	\$308.00	\$325.00	\$17.00
Senior	\$155.00	\$164.00	\$9.00
Emergency	\$193.00	\$204.00	\$11.00
Replacement	\$193.00	\$204.00	\$11.00
Official	\$308.00	\$325.00	\$17.00
Diplomatic	\$308.00	\$325.00	\$17.00
Observation made on passport after issue	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$1.00
Other travel documents and services			
Certificate of identity	\$193.00	\$204.00	\$11.00
Document of identity	\$81.00	\$85.00	\$4.00
UN Convention Travel Document	\$193.00	\$204.00	\$11.00
Provisional Travel Document	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Priority Processing	\$225.00	\$237.00	\$12.00
Overseas surcharge			
Adult	\$138.00	\$146.00	\$8.00
Child	\$67.00	\$71.00	\$4.00
Senior	\$138.00	\$146.00	\$8.00



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Ministerial Submission

Cleared by: Bridget Brill

Date sent to MO: 17 November 2022

FOR: Senator the Hon Penny Wong, The Hon Tim Watts MP

Action Requested By: 9 December 2022

INFO: Senator the Hon Don Farrell

Reason for Urgency: Not applicable

Passport fee increase on 1 January 2023

Key Issues: The *Australian Passports (Application Fees) Determination 2015* automatically increases passport and other travel document fees every year on 1 January to reflect movement in the Consumer Price Index. On 1 January 2023, the adult 10-year passport fee will increase from \$308 to \$325. The cost of a five-year passport will go up from \$155 to \$164. The priority processing fee will rise from \$225 to \$237. As we do every year, in late December 2022, we will post the new fee schedule on our website and Australia Post will put up posters at its outlets that show the new fees. We will not otherwise publicise the increase.

Recommendation:

That you:

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- b) Note the attached media talking points.

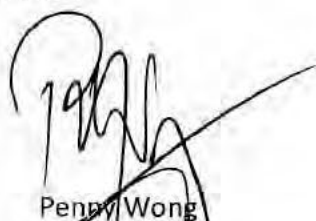
Decision:

Noted

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Domestic/Media Considerations: The increase in fees is likely to attract criticism, particularly due to the increased cost of living and the recent delays in passport issuance. Media talking points are attached.

Action:


Penny Wong
22/11/22

Tim Watts

/ /

Information:

Noted

Don Farrell

/ /

From: Bridget Brill, Executive Director, APO
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Contact: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Director, PCS/SRB/APO,
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Can this proposal be funded from within your existing divisional allocation (departmental/aid)? Not Applicable

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Consultation: Dep Sec MacLachlan

Background:

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