



Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program Summary

Overview of the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program

The objective of the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program is to contribute a highly skilled and relevant Australian workforce that supports economic sustainability and competitiveness.

This is achieved by encouraging:

- genuine opportunities for skills-based training and development of employees; and
- people to enter into skills-based training through an Australian Apprenticeship.

The Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program contains a range of payments.

Eligibility criteria apply to all Australian Government Australian Apprenticeships Incentives payments. Further information regarding eligibility can be obtained from your Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (AASN) provider.

The criteria and funding of these payments may change during the term of the Australian Apprenticeship in line with Government priorities. This may result in changed eligibility at the time a payment is due. These changes will be communicated through your AASN provider.

National Skills Needs List

The National Skills Needs List identifies occupations that are deemed to be in national skill shortage. The National Skills Needs List is used to determine eligibility for a number of payments available under the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program.

Further information about the National Skills Needs List is available at www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au.



Priority Occupations

Support through the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program is also provided to employers of Australian Apprentices working towards a Priority Occupation. The eligible Priority Occupations are Aged Care, Child Care, Disability Care Workers and Enrolled Nurses.

For more information and assistance regarding Australian Apprenticeships, including eligibility advice on payments available under the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program, contact an AASN provider.

List of Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program payments

Your local AASN provider will help you to determine your eligibility for incentives payments.

Employer Incentives		
Payments available at Commencement		
Commencement Incentive	\$1,250	Available where an employer commences a full-time or part-time new worker Australian Apprentice undertaking a Certificate II level qualification, where the Australian Apprentice is deemed to be part of a nominated equity group.
	\$1,500	Available where an employer commences a full-time or part-time new worker or existing worker Australian Apprentice undertaking a Certificate III or IV level qualification that leads to an occupation on the National Skills Needs List (including Australian School-based Apprenticeships).
	\$1,500	Available where an employer commences: A new worker full-time Australian Apprentice undertaking a Certificate III or IV level qualification that leads to a Priority occupation (including Australian School-based Apprenticeships). A new worker full-time Australian Apprentice undertaking a Certificate III or IV level qualification in a non-priority occupation (including Australian School-based Apprenticeships). A new worker full-time or part-time Australian Apprentice undertaking a Diploma or Advanced Diploma level qualification that leads to a Priority Occupation (including Australian School-based Apprenticeships).
Rural and Regional Skills Shortage Incentive	\$1,000	Available where an employer commences a new worker or existing worker Australian Apprentice undertaking a Certificate III or IV qualification that leads to an occupation on the National Skills Needs List in a rural and regional workplace.
Declared Drought Area Commencement Incentive	\$1,500	Available where an employer who holds a current Exceptional Circumstances Drought Area certificate and commences a new worker or existing worker Australian Apprentice deemed to be part of a nominated equity group, undertaking an eligible Certificate II level qualification.

Mature Aged Workers Commencement Incentive	\$750	Available where an employer commences a new worker or existing worker Australian Apprentice undertaking a Certificate II or higher level qualification who is a disadvantaged person aged 45 years or more.
Australian School-based Apprenticeship Commencement Incentive	\$750	Available where an employer commences a new worker or existing worker Australian Apprentice undertaking a Certificate II or higher level qualification in an endorsed Australian School-based Apprenticeship.
Payments available for Retention		
Australian School-based Apprenticeship Retention Incentive	\$750	Available where an employer continues to employ a Certificate II or higher level Australian School-based Apprentice for at least 12 weeks after the student has completed secondary school.
Payments available at Recommencement		
Recommencement Incentive	\$750	Available where an employer recommences a full-time or part-time new worker or existing worker Australian Apprentice undertaking a Certificate III or IV level qualification that leads to an occupation the National Skills Needs List (including Australian School-based Apprenticeships).
	\$750	Available where an employer recommences: a new worker full-time Australian Apprentice undertaking a Certificate III or IV level qualification that leads to a priority occupation (including Australian School-based Apprenticeships). a new worker full-time Australian Apprentice undertaking a Certificate III or IV level qualification in a non-priority occupation (including Australian School-based Apprenticeships). a new worker full-time or part-time Australian Apprentice undertaking a Diploma or Advanced Diploma level that leads to a Priority Occupation (including Australian School-based Apprenticeships).
Payments available at Completion		
Completion Incentive	\$1,500	Available for employers of new worker or existing worker part-time Australian Apprentices who successfully complete a Certificate III or IV level qualification that leads to a Priority Occupation.
	\$1,500	Available for employers of new worker Australian Apprentices who successful complete a part-time Australian Apprenticeship.
	\$2,500	Available for employers of new worker or existing worker full-time or part-time Australian Apprentices who successfully complete a Certificate III or IV level qualification that leads to an occupation on the National Skills Needs List (including Australian School-based Apprenticeships).
	\$2,500	Available for employers of new worker full-time Australian Apprentices who successfully complete a: Certificate III or IV level qualification that leads to a Priority Occupation (including Australian School-based Apprenticeships). Certificate III or IV level qualification that leads to an occupation in a non-priority occupation (including Australian School-based Apprenticeships).

		Also available for employers of new worker full-time or part-time Australian Apprentices who successfully complete a: Diploma or Advanced Diploma level qualification that leads to a Priority Occupation (including Australian School-based Apprenticeships).
	\$3,000	Available for employers of existing worker full-time Australian Apprentices who successfully complete a: Certificate III or IV level qualification that leads to a Priority Occupation (including Australian School-based Apprenticeships). Also available for employers of existing worker full-time or part-time Australian Apprentices who successfully complete a: Diploma or Advanced Diploma level qualification that leads to a Priority Occupation (including Australian School-based Apprenticeships).
Group Training Organisations Certificate II Completion Incentive	\$1,000	Available for Group Training Organisations that support Australian Apprentices deemed to be part of a nominated equity group, to successfully complete a Certificate II level Australian Apprenticeship.
Declared Drought Area Completion Incentive	\$1,500	Available for employers of Australian Apprentices deemed to be part of a nominated equity group, who successfully complete an eligible Certificate II qualification and who attracted a Declared Drought Area Commencement Incentive.
Mature Aged Worker Completion Incentive	\$750	Available for employers of an Australian Apprentice who successfully completes a Certificate II or higher level qualification and who attracted a Mature Aged Worker Commencement Incentive.
Adult Australian Apprentices		
Support for Adult Australian Apprentices	\$4,000	Available to employers of adult workers to upgrade their skills through an Australian Apprenticeship at the Certificate III or IV level in an occupation on the National Skills Needs List. An adult apprentice is defined as being aged 21 years or over if they commenced their apprenticeship on or after 1 July 2019, or 25 years or over if they commenced prior to 1 July 2019. Employers may be eligible for Support for Adult Australian Apprentices where the actual wage paid to the Australian Apprentice is equal to or greater than the National Minimum Wage. Employers may be eligible once the Australian Apprentice has successfully completed 12 months of their Australian Apprenticeship.
Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy trial		
Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy		Available to employers who employ a new worker Australian Apprentice undertaking a full-time Certificate III or IV qualification that leads to an occupation listed on the National Skills Needs List in a rural or regional workplace. Based on the award wage rate (modern award) under which an Australian Apprentice is employed and provides support in the first three years of an Australian Apprenticeship as follows: 75 per cent of the first year award wage; 50 per cent of the second year award wage; and 25 per cent of the third year award wage.

	<p>There are two phases of the Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy Trial:</p> <p>Phase 1 is available to employers who sign-up and commence an Australian Apprentice from 1 January 2019 and until 1,630 sign-ups have occurred.</p> <p>Phase 2 is available to employers who sign-up and commence an Australian Apprentice from 1 July 2019 and until 1,630 sign-ups have occurred.</p>
--	---

Additional Identified Skills Shortage Payment

Employer payment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available to employers of Australian Apprentices new to the employer, commencing a Certificate III or IV level qualification leading to an occupation on the AISS List. Employers will only be eligible to claim the AISS payment for apprentices that qualify as being <i>additional</i> – that is, over and above the employer’s usual apprentice intake. Eligible employers will receive \$2,000 at the 12 month point from commencement of the apprenticeship and an additional \$2,000 at completion of the apprenticeship.
Apprentice payment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available to apprentices new to the employer commencing a Certificate III or IV level qualification leading to an occupation on the AISS List. Eligible apprentices will receive \$1,000 at the 12 month point from commencement of their apprenticeship and an additional \$1,000 at completion of the apprenticeship.

Assistance for Australian Apprentices with Disability

Disabled Australian Apprentice Wage Support (DAAWS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disabled Australian Apprentice Wage Support provides additional assistance to employers who employ an Australian Apprentice with disability in a Certificate II or higher level qualification. Disabled Australian Apprentice Wage Support is paid at a rate of \$104.30 per week for a full-time Australian Apprentice, and on a pro-rata scale according to the hours worked for a part-time Australian Apprentice.
Off-the-job Tutorial, Mentor and Interpreter Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance for Tutorial, Mentor and Interpreter Services is available to Registered Training Organisations to support Australian Apprentices with disability who are experiencing difficulty with the off-the-job component of their Australian Apprenticeship because of their disability. Assistance for Tutorial, Mentor and Interpreter Services is paid at a rate of \$38.50 per hour (up to a maximum of \$5,500 per annum).

Supporting Apprentices and Trainees

Supporting Apprentices and Trainees wage subsidy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting Apprentices and Trainees provides a wage subsidy to eligible small and medium sized businesses (including those using a Group Training Organisation) to support the retention of their existing apprentices and trainees.
--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The wage subsidy is also available to employers of any size, including a Group Training Organisation, if they re-engage an apprentice or trainee that has been displaced from a small business. • Eligible employers can apply for a wage subsidy of 50 per cent of the apprentice's or trainee's wage until 31 March 2021. The apprentice or trainee must have been in-training with a small business as at 1 March 2020, or a small or medium business as at 1 July. • Group Training Organisations may be able to access the wage subsidy at a rate of \$1,500 per fortnight, where the Host Employer of any size is receiving the JobKeeper payment and retains their apprentice. Eligible Group Training Organisations can apply for the \$1,500 per fortnight payment for 6 months from 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020. • Final claims for payment must be lodged by 30 June 2021.
--	--

Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements

<p>Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements wage subsidy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any businesses or Group Training Organisation that engages an Australian Apprentice on or after 5 October 2020 may be eligible for a subsidy of 50 per cent of wages paid to an apprentice between 5 October 2020 and 30 September 2021, to a maximum of \$7,000 per quarter. • The subsidy is available to employers of any size, industry or geographic location. • The subsidy is capped at 100,000 places. • The subsidy is not available for any apprentice receiving any other form of Australian Government wage subsidy (e.g. Supporting Apprentices and Trainees or JobKeeper). • Payments will be made quarterly in arrears, with first claims for the subsidy available from 1 January 2021. • Final claims for payment must be lodged by 31 December 2021.
---	---

Payments to Australian Apprentices

<p>Living Away From Home Allowance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Apprentices undertaking a Certificate II or higher level qualification may be eligible for the Living Away From Home Allowance if they have to move away from their parental/guardian home for the first time to commence or remain in an Australian Apprenticeship, or are homeless. • Australian Apprentices may be eligible for up to twelve months of Living Away From Home Allowance at the first year rate of \$77.17 per week, a further twelve months assistance at the second year rate of \$38.59 per week, and a further twelve months assistance at the third year rate of \$25 per week.
--	---

Further Australian Government assistance available for Australian Apprentices

<p>Trade Support Loans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Apprentices may be eligible to receive financial support through Trade Support Loans. Further information and assessment of eligibility is undertaken by an Apprenticeship Network provider.
----------------------------	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible Australian Apprentices will have access to loans totalling up to \$21,078 over the course of their apprenticeship to assist with the costs of undertaking an apprenticeship. • Eligible Australian Apprentices may receive payments of \$702.62 per month over the first year of their apprenticeship (up to a total of \$8,431 per annum), \$526.96 per month over the second year (up to a total of \$6,324 (per annum), \$351.31 per month over the third year (up to a total of \$4,216 per annum) and \$175.65 per month over the fourth year (up to a total of \$2,108 per annum). • Further information on Trade Support Loans can be found at www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au.
<p>Youth Allowance, Austudy or ABSTUDY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Apprentices may also be eligible to access fortnightly payments delivered by Centrelink: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Allowance for Australian Apprentices aged 16-24; Austudy for Australian Apprentices aged 25 and over; ABSTUDY for Australian Apprentices of any age and who are Indigenous Australians. • Further information about these payments is available from the Department of Human Services on 13 24 68 or www.humanservices.gov.au.