



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 Apprenticeship Network 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/financial-programs.

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 Apprenticeship Network provider. To find an Apprenticeship Network provider near you, visit www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/search-aasn.

List of Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program payments

Your local Apprenticeship Network 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 new worker Australian Apprentice deemed to be part of a nominated equity group at the Certificate II level qualification.
	\$1,500	Available where an employer commences a new worker or existing worker Australian Apprentice in a Certificate III or IV level qualification that leads to an occupation on the National Skills Needs List (including part-time Australian Apprenticeships and Australian School-based Apprenticeships).
	\$1,500	Available where an employer commences a new worker Australian Apprentice at a: Certificate III or IV level qualification that leads to a Priority Occupation (including Australian School-based Apprenticeships). Diploma or Advanced Diploma level qualification that leads to a Priority Occupation (including part-time Australian Apprenticeships and Australian School-based Apprenticeships). Certificate III or IV level qualification in a non-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 in 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, in 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 in 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 in 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 new worker or existing worker Australian Apprentice in a Certificate III or IV level qualification that leads to an occupation the National Skills Needs List (including part-time Australian Apprenticeships and Australian School-based Apprenticeships).
	\$750	Available where an employer recommences a new worker Australian Apprentice at a: Certificate III or IV level qualification that leads to an occupation in a priority group (including Australian School-based Apprenticeships). Diploma or Advanced Diploma level qualification that leads to an occupation in a priority group (including part-time Australian Apprenticeships and Australian School-based Apprenticeships). Certificate III or IV level qualification in a non-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 or new worker Australian Apprentices who successful complete a part-time Australian Apprenticeship.
	\$2,500	Available for employers of new worker or existing worker Australian Apprentices who successfully complete a Certificate III or IV level qualification that leads to an occupation on the National Skills Needs List (including part-time Australian Apprenticeships and Australian School-based Apprenticeships).
	\$2,500	Available for employers of new worker Australian Apprentices who successfully complete a: Certificate III or IV level qualification that leads a Priority Occupation (including Australian School-based Apprenticeships). Diploma or Advanced Diploma level qualification that leads to a Priority Occupation (including part-time Australian Apprenticeships and 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).
	\$3,000	Available for employers of existing worker Australian Apprentices who successfully complete a: Certificate III or IV level qualification that leads to a Priority Occupation (including Australian School-based Apprenticeships). Diploma or Advanced Diploma level qualification that leads to a Priority Occupation (including part-time Australian Apprenticeships and 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	<p>Available to employers of adult workers (aged 25 years or over) to upgrade their skills through an Australian Apprenticeship at the Certificate III or IV level in an occupation on the National Skills Needs List.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Employers may be eligible once the Australian Apprentice has successfully completed 12 months of their Australian Apprenticeship.</p>
Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy trial		
Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy		<p>Available to employers of 1630 new worker Australian Apprentices who sign-up and commence a full-time Certificate III or IV qualification in an occupation on the National Skills Needs List, from 1 January 2019.</p> <p>Support apprenticeships in skills needs occupations in rural and regional areas, encourage small business to employ an additional apprentice above their normal intake, and encourage participation in apprenticeships by employers who have not previously engaged apprentices, as well as re-engaging employers who may have disengaged from the system.</p> <p>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>

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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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).
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Payments to Australian Apprentices

Living Away From Home Allowance	<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.
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Further Australian Government assistance available for Australian Apprentices

Trade Support Loans	<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. Eligible Australian Apprentices will have access to loans totalling up to \$20,808 over the course of their apprenticeship to assist with the costs of undertaking an apprenticeship. Eligible Australian Apprentices may receive payments of \$693.60 per month over the first year of their apprenticeship (up to a total of \$8,323 per annum), \$520.20 per month over the second year (up to a total of \$6,242 per annum), \$346.80 per month over the third year (up to a total of \$4,162 per annum) and \$173.40 per month over the fourth year (up to a total of \$2,081 per annum). Further information on Trade Support Loans can be found at www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/aus-apprenticeships-incentives.
Youth Allowance, Austudy or ABSTUDY	<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.