



Australian Apprenticeships Incentive System

Factsheet

Last Updated 15 December 2022

Apprenticeships play a critical role in supporting Australians to access secure, well-paid jobs. They create a pipeline of skills and talent in the Australian workforce, helping businesses to meet their current and future skills needs and realise the opportunities of a recovering economy.

From 1 July 2022, the Australian Apprenticeships Incentive System (Incentives System) supports a more inclusive and sustainable economy, ensuring Australians receive quality training while in paid employment.

Overview of the Incentives System

Government support under the Incentives System focuses on priority occupations, ensuring support is targeted to the skills in demand in the Australian economy. Priority occupations are listed on the [Australian Apprenticeships Priority List](#) (Priority List), which will be updated regularly. The Priority List is based on analysis of the occupations in current shortage and future demand over the next five years, that are most likely to involve an Australian Apprenticeship entry pathway.

Support will also be available to employers taking on Australian Apprentices in occupations not listed on the Priority List.

Payments available under the Incentives System:

Employer Payments

- The Priority Wage Subsidy provides up to 3 years of assistance to employers. Eligible employers are able to be reimbursed a percentage of wages paid on a quarterly basis.
- A Hiring Incentive is available to eligible employers of Australian Apprentices in occupations not listed on the Priority List. It is paid in two instalments at 6 and 12 months after commencement.

Australian Apprentice Payments

- The Australian Apprentice Training Support Payment provides up to 2 years of direct financial assistance for apprentices undertaking Certificate III level and above qualification in an occupation listed on the [Australian Apprenticeship Priority List](#).
- From 1 January 2023, the New Energy Apprentice Support Payment will be available to Australian Apprentices working in clean energy sector roles. Eligible occupations are identified as a subset on the Australian Apprenticeship Priority List

Support for Women in Trades

The Australian Government is investing **\$38.6 million** over 4 years to provide additional support for women who commence in eligible trade occupations on the Priority List. The eligible trade occupations are occupations that have historically had a low level of female participation.

This measure will provide these women with access to comprehensive wraparound support through the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network, including personalised advice and information on career options and apprenticeship pathways, pastoral care, career and industry mentoring, access to professional networks and entrepreneurship training. These non-financial supports will help to support more women to complete their apprenticeship and go on to have successful careers.

Australian Apprenticeship Support Loans

The Australian Government is renaming and expanding the Trade Support Loans scheme which will make loans available to Australian Apprentices in the care sector for the first time. Subject to the passage of legislation, the new Australian Apprenticeship Support Loans scheme will be available for all apprentices and trainees in occupations on the Priority List. It will provide income contingent loans of up to \$22,890, to help recipients meet day to day costs while undertaking their studies. The measure will also enable backdating of payments to provide immediate support to recipients.

Support for Young Australian Apprentices

From 1 July 2022, young apprentices aged 15 to 20 years will receive additional support to complete their Australian Apprenticeship. All newly commencing young Australian Apprentices will receive a follow-up call 3 months from commencement to ensure any issues are identified early.

In addition, an extra 2,500 in-training support places will be made available in 2022-23 for young Australian Apprentices from 1 July 2022. This comes on top of the almost 30,000 in training support places already funded for delivery to Australian Apprentices in 2022.

Living Away From Home Allowance and Disability Australian Apprentice Wage Support

There will continue to be support available for students who need to travel to undertake their apprenticeship, through a continuation of the Living Away From Home Allowance. There will also continue to be additional support for apprentices with disability, through the Disability Australian Apprenticeship Wage Support.

Further information can be found in the [Incentives System Guidelines](#). To determine your eligibility and information about applying, contact an [Australian Apprenticeship Support Network provider](#).