



Australian Government

A U S T R A L I A N
A P P R E N T I C E S H I P S

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Australian Apprenticeships Priority List

Factsheet

Last Updated 22 December 2025

The Australian Apprenticeships Priority List (Priority List) is updated on 1 January each year and underpins financial supports through the Australian Apprenticeships Incentive System.

Occupations on the Priority List:

The Priority List is compiled based on demand ratings for occupations that have been:

1. classified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on the Occupation Standard Classification for Australia (OSCA), as being in:
 - Major Group 3 - Trades and Technicians; or
 - Major Group 4 - Community and Personal Care Workers, **and**
2. assessed by Job Skills Australia (JSA) on the Occupational Shortage List (OSL) as being in national shortage.

Key Apprenticeship Program

New Energy Apprenticeship stream

The Priority List includes a subset of occupations and qualifications that have been identified as leading to a clean energy occupation. These are identified with an 'E' in the NEA column on the Priority List.

Housing Construction Apprenticeship stream

The Priority List includes a subset of occupations and qualifications that have been identified as leading to a housing construction occupation. These are identified with an 'E' in the HCA column on the Priority List.

Changes from ANZSCO to OSCA

On 8 October 2024, the ABS and Statistics New Zealand announced each country would introduce their own tailored occupational statistical classifications. For Australia, the new classification is called the Occupation Standard Classification for Australia (OSCA), 2024, version 1.0.

On 6 December 2024, OSCA was officially released and replaced the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) for use in Australia.

While most occupations have not changed Major Groups there have been several changes to occupational classifications and new occupations added as a result of the ABS review that better reflect the modern Australian labour market.

To ensure relevant occupations are considered for inclusion, the 2025 Priority List is to be based on the OSCA to identify those occupations on the OSL that fall into either

- Major Group 3 – Technicians and Trades Workers or
- Major Group 4 – Community and Personal Service Workers.

These Major Groups reflect the occupations most likely to require an apprenticeship pathway to gain a qualification, helping to ensure financial supports are targeted to occupations with higher barriers to entry.

The 2026 Priority List draws information on areas of skills shortage from JSA's October 2025 Occupation Shortage List (OSL). The OSL is published annually and is underpinned by JSA's independent data analysis and extensive stakeholder engagement. The OSL provides a point-in-time assessment of the shortage status of occupations in the Australian labour market.

The Incentive System was one of the first programs to implement the OSCA following its release. The implementation of OSCA does not require a change to the Priority List Methodology. Adopting the changes will ensure that the Priority List is implemented as fairly as possible, with the most up to date Occupational Skill Classifications.

For further information, contact your [Apprentice Connect Australia Provider](#)