



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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## New Energy Apprenticeships Program

### FAQs

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## What is the New Energy Apprenticeships Program?

From 1 January 2023, the Australian Government's New Energy Apprenticeships Program provides incentives to support new Australian Apprentices taking up an Australian Apprenticeship to work in the clean energy sector.

## Why has the government introduced this program?

The Australian Government recognises that skills in clean energy sectors are needed for Australia's future economic growth. That's why the government is committed to investing in, and developing, the clean energy sector.

The New Energy Apprenticeships Program will ensure there is a pipeline of skilled workers to deliver Australia's clean energy infrastructure now and into the future.

## What can apprentices receive from the program?

The New Energy Apprenticeships Program will provide two forms of support to new apprentices:

1. **Financial support of up to \$10,000** over the course of the apprenticeship.
2. **Professional support through a mentoring program**, commencing from July 2023. Australian Apprentices will work with a mentor to build links within, and understand their industry, receive support and real-world training and experience.

## Who is eligible for the New Energy Apprenticeships Program?

To be eligible for the New Energy Apprentice Apprenticeships Program, an Australian Apprentice must:

- Commence a new training contract on or after 1 January 2023.
- Be undertaking a Cert III, IV, Diploma or Advanced Diploma level qualification listed on the [Priority List](#).
- Be training towards an identified clean energy occupation on the [Priority List](#).
- Not be undertaking a previously completed qualification **OR** undertaking a qualification that supersedes a previously completed qualification. The only exceptions are:
  - the qualification was completed more than seven years ago
  - the qualification was completed overseas.

In addition, the employer must demonstrate:

- Their business engagement and operation is in the clean energy sector.
- The majority of the Australia Apprentice's work will be in the clean energy sector, on an ongoing basis and at commencement or recommencement of the Australian Apprenticeship.

In addition, a signed declaration must be received from:

- The Australian Apprentice stating their commitment to build skills in the clean energy sector, including selecting clean energy electives in their training (where available and appropriate).

## Is my employer eligible for an incentive?

Yes, because Clean Energy Occupations are a subset of the Priority List, your employer is likely to be eligible for the Priority Wage Subsidy. The Priority Wage Subsidy is paid at the following rates:

- 10 per cent of wages paid to the Australian Apprentice for first and second 12-month period (up to \$1,500 per quarter).
- 5 per cent of wages paid to the Australian Apprentice for the third 12-month period (up to \$750 per quarter).

Employers are encouraged to contact their [local Australian Apprenticeship Support Network Provider](#) for further information.

## How do I apply for the New Energy Apprenticeships Program?

To become a New Energy Apprentice, or for further information about the process, contact your [local Australian Apprenticeship Support Network Provider](#).

## I am already undertaking an Australian Apprenticeship in a clean energy occupation. Am I eligible for the New Energy Apprenticeships Program?

No. The New Energy Apprenticeships Program is only available to eligible Australian Apprentices commencing from 1 January 2023.

However, existing apprentices undertaking an apprenticeship in a [Priority List](#) occupation may be eligible for the Apprentice Training Support Payment.

To check what you may be eligible to receive, please contact your [local Australian Apprenticeship Support Network Provider](#) for help.

## Can I claim both the New Energy Apprentice Support Payment and the Australian Apprentice Training Support Payment?

No. Australian Apprentices are only eligible for **one** support payment, either:

- the New Energy Apprentice Support Payment
- the Australian Apprentice Support Payment.

The maximum amount claimable for a New Energy Apprentice is \$10,000 over the course of the apprenticeship.

To check what you may be eligible to receive, please contact your [local Australian Apprenticeship Support Network Provider](#) for help.

## How is the incentive paid?

For a 4-year Australian Apprenticeship, an Australian Apprentice will receive:

- \$2,000 at 6 months
- \$2,000 at 12, 24, 36 months
- \$2,000 on completion of the apprenticeship.

Apprentices will be guided through the payment process. It starts with the completion of a claim application on the [Apprenticeship Data Management System](#). Payments are made directly to a nominated bank account.

## Where can I find the list of clean energy occupations?

Clean Energy Occupations have been marked as a subset on the [Australian Apprenticeship Priority List](#). The Clean Energy Occupations are shaded in green.

## How are clean energy sector roles selected?

Occupations identified as clean energy on the [Priority List](#) must meet the following criteria:

- Assessed by Jobs and Skills Australia as being in national shortage.
- Classified by the ABS ANZSCO as either:
  - Technicians and Trades Workers (Major Group 3)
  - Community and Personal Service Workers (Major Group 4)
- Skills in demand that align to the needs of the clean energy sector, as identified through consultation and feedback from industry.

## What are examples of eligible sectors and types of renewable energy?

Eligible sectors include, but are not limited to:

- rooftop solar installation and maintenance
- large-scale renewable projects
- energy efficiency upgrades to homes and businesses
- green hydrogen and renewable manufacturing
- relevant agricultural activities.

Types of renewable energy include:

- solar
- bioenergy
- wind power
- hydro power
- battery storage
- geothermal energy
- smart technology