

# Support for Australian Apprentices with disability

Last Updated 1 January 2025

The Australian Government provides additional support to Australian Apprentices with disability to help them reach their full potential as skilled workers.

## Support is available for apprentices with disability

A range of assistance is available to support apprentices with disability, including the Disability Australian Apprentice Wage Support (DAAWS) which is paid to employers, and assistance for tutorial, mentoring and interpreter assistance for apprentices.

Assistance is also available through the Employment Assistance Fund which helps people with disability and mental health conditions purchase a range of work-related modifications and services. This assistance is intended to help the apprentice with disability reach their full potential and ensure they can fully participate in their Australian Apprenticeship (apprenticeship).

## DAAWS

DAAWS aims to encourage employers to provide Australian Apprenticeships to people with a permanent or temporary disability who are able to participate in open employment with suitable support and training.

The incentive is payable to an employer who employs an apprentice who satisfies the disability eligibility criteria. DAAWS is also available to employers who employ apprentices who become disabled during their apprenticeship.

From 1 January 2025, there are changes to the requirements for DAAWS, this includes:

- The DAAWS assessment must be undertaken by a registered medical practitioner or registered psychologist who is qualified to make a diagnosis of disability. This cannot be a school counsellor.
- The assessment of the apprentice's needs must be genuine and not based on third party advice, or as part of a bulk assessment. Where the apprentice is under 18, they must be accompanied by their parent or guardian.

## Tutorial, mentoring and interpreter assistance

Tutorial, mentoring and interpreter assistance is available to eligible apprentices who require additional assistance with their off-the-job training.

This form of assistance is payable only to the Registered Training Organisation where the apprentice is undertaking their off-the-job-training.

From 1 January 2025, there are changes to the requirements for tutorial, mentoring and interpreter assistance. This includes:

- **Tutorial assistance** must be delivered in small groups of **no more than 5 participants** to ensure the apprentice's learning needs are met.
- **Mentor and interpreter assistance** must be delivered **on a one-on-one basis** to ensure the apprentice's needs are met.

## For more information

Contact your [Apprentice Connect Australia Providers](#).

To find a Provider near you, visit [www.apprenticeships.gov.au](http://www.apprenticeships.gov.au).

For more information about the Employment Assistance Fund (EAF), visit [www.jobaccess.gov.au](http://www.jobaccess.gov.au) or call 1800 464 800.