



Summary

of the Australian Government

Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Programme

From 1 July 2015

Overview of the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Programme

The objective of the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Programme is to contribute to the development of 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 Programme contains a range of payments which are detailed in this summary.

Eligibility criteria apply to all Australian Government Australian Apprenticeships Incentives payments. Further information regarding eligibility for payments can be obtained from your Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (Apprenticeship Network) Provider.

The criteria and funding of Australian Government Australian Apprenticeships Incentives payments, including eligibility, availability and payment of Incentives 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 notified by your Apprenticeship Network provider.

National Skills Needs List (NSNL)

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 Programme.

Further information about the National Skills Needs List is available at www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au.

Priority Occupations

The aim of the Programme is to increase the relevant national skills base in Australia by providing additional payments where Australian Apprentices are working towards a Priority Occupation.

The eligible Priority Occupations are Aged Care, Child Care, Disability Care Workers and Enrolled Nurses. Further information about the Priority Occupations is available at www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au.

Australian Apprenticeship Support Network Providers

Apprenticeship Network providers are contracted by the Australian Government to deliver Australian Apprenticeships support services, which includes providing information and assistance to employers, Australian Apprentices and other interested people, marketing and promoting Australian Apprenticeships and administering the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Programme. Apprenticeship Network providers provide a free service to employers and Australian Apprentices.

For more information and assistance regarding Australian Apprenticeships, including eligibility advice on payments available under the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Programme, contact an Apprenticeship Network provider. Contact details can be obtained by calling 13 38 73 or visiting www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au.

Employer Incentives

Commencement Incentive

NSNL

'New Worker' or 'Existing Worker' Australian Apprentices

- \$1,500 incentive for an employer who commences an 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).

Recommencement Incentive

NSNL

'New Worker' or 'Existing Worker' Australian Apprentices

- \$750 incentive for an employer who recommences an 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).

Completion Incentive

NSNL

'New Worker' or 'Existing Worker' Australian Apprentices

- \$2,500 incentive for employers of 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).

Commencement Incentive

Non-NSNL in the priority occupations

'New Worker' Australian Apprentices

- \$1,500 incentive for an employer who commences an 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).

Recommencement Incentive

Non-NSNL in the priority occupations

'New Worker' Australian Apprentices

- \$750 incentive for an employer who recommences an 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).

Completion Incentive

Non-NSNL in the priority occupations

- \$1,500 incentive for an employer who successfully completes a part-time new or existing worker Australian Apprentices Certificate III or IV level qualification that leads to an occupation in a priority group.
- \$2,500 incentive for an employer who successfully completes a new worker Australian Apprentice at the:
 - 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).
- \$3,000 incentive for an employer who successfully completes an existing worker Australian Apprentice at the:
 - Certificate III or IV level qualification that leads to a priority group (including Australian School-based Apprenticeships).
 - Diploma or Advanced Diploma level qualification that leads to a priority group (including part-time Australian Apprenticeships and Australian School-based Apprenticeships).

Commencement Incentive

Non-NSNL non priority occupations

'New Worker' Australian Apprentices

- \$1,500 incentive for an employer who commences an Australian Apprentice in a Certificate III or IV level qualification in a non-priority occupation (including Australian School-based Apprenticeships).

Recommencement Incentive

Non-NSNL non priority occupations

'New Worker' Australian Apprentices

- \$750 incentive for an employer who recommences an Australian Apprentice in a Certificate III or IV level qualification in a non-priority occupation (including Australian School-based Apprenticeships).

Completion Incentive

Non-NSNL non priority occupations

'New Worker' Australian Apprentices

- \$1,500 incentive for an employer who successfully completes a part-time Australian Apprentice.
- \$2,500 incentives for an employer who successfully completes an Australian Apprentice in a Certificate III or IV level qualification that leads to an occupation in a non-priority occupation (including Australian School-based Apprenticeships).

Support for Adult Australian Apprentices

- Australian Government financial support is 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.
- 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.
- Employers may be eligible for \$4,000, once the Australian Apprentice has successfully completed 12 months of training.

Rural and Regional Skills Shortage Incentive

- \$1,000 incentive for an employer who commences an 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.

Nominated Equity Groups Commencement Incentive

'New Worker' Australian Apprentices

- \$1,250 incentive for an employer who commences an Australian Apprentice deemed to be part of a nominated equity group at the Certificate II level qualification.

Group Training Organisations Certificate II Completion Incentive

- \$1,000 incentive 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 Areas Commencement and Completion Incentives

- \$1,500 incentive for an employer who holds a current Exceptional Circumstances Drought Area certificate and commences an Australian Apprentice deemed to be part of a nominated equity group, in an eligible Certificate II level qualification.
- \$1,500 incentive 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 Workers Commencement and Completion Incentives

- \$750 incentive for an employer who commences an Australian Apprentice in a Certificate II or higher level qualification who is a disadvantaged person aged 45 years or more.
- \$750 incentive for an employer of an Australian Apprentice who successfully completes a Certificate II or higher level qualification and who attracted a Mature Aged Worker Commencement Incentive.

Australian School-based Apprenticeships Commencement and Retention Incentives

- \$750 incentive for an employer who commences an Australian Apprentice in a Certificate II or higher level qualification in an endorsed Australian School-based Apprenticeship.
- \$750 incentive for an employer who 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.

Assistance for Australian Apprentices with Disability

Disabled Australian Apprentice Wage Support (DAAWS)

- 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

- 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.
- 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).

Payments to Australian Apprentices

Living Away From Home Allowance

- 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.

Further Australian Government assistance available for Australian Apprentices

Trade Support Loans

- 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 \$20,000 over the course of their apprenticeship to assist with the costs of undertaking an apprenticeship.
- Eligible Australian Apprentices may receive payments of \$666.67 per month over the first year of their apprenticeship (up to a total of \$8,000 per annum), \$500.00 per month over the second year (up to a total of \$6,000 per annum), \$333.34 per month over the third year (up to a total of \$4,000 per annum) and \$166.67 per month over the fourth year (up to a total of \$2,000 per annum).
- Further information on Trade Support Loans can be found at www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au.

Youth Allowance, Austudy or ABSTUDY

- Australian Apprentices may also be eligible to access fortnightly payments delivered by Centrelink:
 - 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.