

## What is the Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy?

The Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy (AAWS) is only available to employers who employ a new worker Australian Apprentice commencing a full-time Certificate III or IV qualification that leads to an occupation listed on the [National Skills Needs List \(NSNL\)](#) in a rural and regional workplace. The Australian Apprentice must be employed under the relevant Award (modern award) for their occupation.

## Who is eligible?

The AAWS is available to employers in rural and regional areas, who must also meet all other eligibility requirements under the *Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program*. Talk to us today to find out if you're eligible for the Subsidy.

## What is considered a rural and regional workplace?

If you're unsure whether your business is considered a rural or regional workplace, refer to the [Eligible Rural and Regional Postcode List](#).

Workplaces in the ACT do not meet the eligibility criteria as the ACT is considered a metropolitan area for the purposes of the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program.

## When will employers be able to access the Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy?

The Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy is limited to employers of 1630 new worker Australian Apprentices nationally, who sign-up and commence their Australian Apprenticeship from **1 January 2019**.

Eligible employers will be able to access the Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy after an eligibility assessment that we can run for you today, and following confirmation of their eligibility. We will assess ongoing eligibility for the Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy on a six monthly basis, as employers submit claims for payment.

## What will the incentives look like?

The Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy provides support in the first three years of an Australian Apprenticeship as follows:

YEAR OF APPRENTICESHIP	SUBSIDY
First year	75% of award wage
Second year	50% of award wage
Third year	25% of award wage

The Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy is based on the minimum award wage under which an Australian Apprentice is employed. An employer may pay higher than the minimum award wage rate, however, the Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy is based on the minimum award wage rate, not the actual wage paid to the Australian Apprentice.

Payments will be available six monthly in arrears, with the first payment available at six months from the date of commencement of the Australian Apprenticeship.

The Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy is not available in the fourth year of an Australian Apprenticeship, even if the apprenticeship is of that (or longer) duration.

## How long is the Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy trial available?

The Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy trial will run from 1 January 2019 until 30 June 2023. The Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy will be available to employers of up to 1630 eligible Australian Apprentices.

## How do employers sign up?

The Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy is available to employers who sign-up and commence a full-time new worker Australian Apprentice on or after 1 January 2019. Contact us today if you'd like to sign-up an apprentice or trainee.

## The Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy is a trial. Will there be funding available beyond this financial year? Will it be extended?

The trial runs until 30 June 2023. Whether the Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy will be extended beyond this date is a decision for Government to be assessed at a later date.

## **If the trial is cancelled, are the monies committed to these employers for the duration of the Wage Subsidy (3 years) or like the other incentives, can they be removed at any time?**

The criteria and funding of payments available under the AAIP, 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.

This is a decision of Government and any changes will be notified to employers and also communicated by us.

## **Is there a limit of one Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy per employer?**

Yes. An employer will be eligible for the Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy for one eligible Australian Apprentice.

Group Training Organisations may be eligible for the Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy for more than one eligible Australian Apprentice, subject to meeting the Group Training Organisation specific eligibility requirements.

The limit of one Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy per employer applies regardless of the State or Territory in which the Training Contract is registered. If an employer employs an eligible Australian Apprentice in NSW and also employs an eligible Australian Apprentice in QLD, they will only be eligible for the Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy for one of the Australian Apprentices.

## **Is the Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy only available to Australian Apprentices in a certain age group?**

No. The Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy is available to Australian Apprentices of any age, subject to meeting the eligibility criteria.

## **Are employers of mature-aged Australian Apprentices eligible for the Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy?**

Yes. Employers of mature-aged Australian Apprentices may be eligible for the Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy.

***If you have any further questions, don't hesitate to contact our support team on 1300 363 831 or email us at [info@apprenticeshipsupport.com.au](mailto:info@apprenticeshipsupport.com.au)***