



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

Your Life. Your Career. Your Future.

[www.australia.gov.au/australianapprenticeships](http://www.australia.gov.au/australianapprenticeships)

## Summary of the Australian Government Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Programme

*From 1 July 2006*

### **Australian Apprenticeships**

The objective of the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Programme is to develop a more skilled Australian workforce that delivers long-term benefits for our nation and our international competitiveness. This is achieved by encouraging employers to open up genuine opportunities for skills-based training of their employees, through provision by the Australian Government of financial incentives to employers who employ and train an Australian Apprentice (apprentice or trainee).

### **Australian Apprenticeships Centres**

Australian Apprenticeships Centres provide a free service to employers and Australian Apprentices. For more information or assistance, you should contact an Australian Apprenticeships Centre in your region. Contact details can be obtained by calling **1800 639 629** or visiting [www.australia.gov.au/australianapprenticeships](http://www.australia.gov.au/australianapprenticeships)

### **Waiting periods**

There is a three month waiting period before an employer can apply for an Australian Government Commencement Incentive for an Australian Apprentice. The Apprenticeship/Traineeship Training Contract must be formally approved. The Australian Apprentice must still be employed by the same employer and must have commenced training in accordance with the approved Training Program. The employer should submit a claim to the Australian Apprenticeships Centre at the end of the three month waiting period, and within the required time limit. Further information on waiting periods and time limits can be obtained from your Australian Apprenticeships Centre.

### **Australian Government Incentives**

The following summarises the Australian Government Australian Apprenticeships Incentives regime for all Australian Apprentices (apprentices and trainees). Payment of incentives will be subject to employers and their Australian Apprentices satisfying eligibility criteria as set out in the Australian Government Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Programme Guidelines. Contact your Australian Apprenticeships Centre for further information on Australian Government Incentives.

### **Standard Commencement**

\$1,250 incentive for an employer who commences an Australian Apprentice in Certificate II training; or \$1,500 incentive for an employer who commences an Australian Apprentice in Certificate III or IV training.

### **Australian Government Incentives for other qualifications**

Selected Diploma and Advanced Diploma qualifications are eligible to attract \$1500 standard commencement and \$2500 standard completion employer incentives and personal assistance. More information is available from your Australian Apprenticeships Centre.

### **Innovation – Special Commencement**

\$1,100 special incentive for an employer who employs an Australian Apprentice in an eligible innovation training package qualification at the Certificate III or IV level.

### **Australian School-based Apprenticeships – Additional Commencement**

\$750 additional incentive for an employer who employs an Australian Apprentice in an endorsed Australian School-based Apprenticeship at Certificate II to IV level.

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### **Rural and Regional Skills Shortage Incentives – Special Commencement**

\$1,000 special incentive for Rural and Regional Australian Apprenticeships where the Australian Apprentice commences a Certificate III or IV qualification in a national skill needs occupation in a non-metropolitan area. More information is available from your Australian Apprenticeships Centre.

### **Declared Drought Areas – Additional Commencement**

\$1,500 additional incentive for employers of eligible Certificate II Australian Apprentices who are employed by an employer who has a current Exceptional Circumstances Drought Area certificate.

### **Mature Aged Worker – Special Commencement**

\$750 special incentive for an employer who commences an eligible Certificate II and higher Australian Apprentice who is a disadvantaged person aged 45 years or more. Contact your Australian Apprenticeships Centre for further information.

### **Standard Recommencement**

\$750 incentive for employers recommencing out-of-trade Certificate III or IV Australian Apprentices.

### **Australian School-based Apprenticeship Retention**

\$750 for an employer who continues to employ a Certificate II to IV level Australian School-based Apprentice after the student has completed Year 12.

### **Standard Completion**

Employers of Australian Apprentices who successfully complete Certificate III and IV may be eligible to receive either 25%, 50%, 75% or 100% of the \$2,500 incentive.

### **Declared Drought Areas – Special Completion**

\$1,500 special incentive for employers on the successful completion of eligible Certificate II Australian Apprentices who attracted a Declared Drought Areas additional commencement incentive.

### **Mature Aged Worker – Special Completion**

\$750 special incentive for an employer on the successful completion of a Certificate II and higher Australian Apprentice who attracted a Mature Aged Worker special commencement incentive.

### **Group Training Organisations – Special Completion**

\$1,000 special incentive for Group Training Organisations that support Australian Apprentices to complete a Certificate II Australian Apprenticeship.

### **Assistance for Australian Apprentices with a Disability**

The programme provides additional assistance to eligible employers who employ a Certificate II to IV level Australian Apprentice with a disability. More information is available from your Australian Apprenticeships Centre.

### **Living Away From Home Allowance (LAFHA)**

Australian Apprentices may be eligible for up to twelve months of LAFHA at the first year rate of \$77.17 per week, a further twelve months assistance at the second year rate of \$38.59, and a further twelve months assistance at the third year rate of \$25 if the Certificate II to IV level Australian Apprentice had to move away from the parental/guardian home to commence or remain in an Australian Apprenticeship or is homeless. Your Australian Apprenticeships Centre can provide more information on LAFHA and the appropriate application form.

### **Commonwealth Trade Learning Scholarship**

The Commonwealth Trade Learning Scholarship provides two tax exempt \$500 payments to eligible Australian Apprentices undertaking qualifications in the skill needs trades with a small/medium enterprise or Group Training Organisation. The scholarship is paid to Australian Apprentices after they complete the first 12 and 24 months full-time (or full-time equivalent) employment in their Australian Apprenticeship.

### **Further Australian Government Assistance Available for Australian Apprentices**

Australian Apprentices may be eligible for Youth Allowance (including Austudy for over 25s and ABSTUDY). More information is available from Centrelink on **13 36 33**.

The Tools For Your Trade initiative provides up to \$800 for the purchase of trade tools for eligible Australian Apprentices. More information is available from Tools For Your Trade on **1800 557 875**.