



Australian Government

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Australian Apprenticeships Advisers Program

December 2011



The Australian Apprenticeships Advisers Program is a grants program which forms part of the Australian Apprenticeships Mentoring Package. It was announced by the Australian Government in the 2011 Budget as part of Apprenticeship Reform element of the Australian Government's *Building Australia's Future Workforce* package.

Under the Advisers Program, funding will support Apprenticeships Advisers to provide occupation or industry specific information to potential Australian Apprenticeship candidates to help them make an informed decision in choosing the right Australian Apprenticeship pathway. The Advisers Program primarily targets school leavers. Projects under the Advisers Program could also provide information and resources to potential and existing employers of Australian Apprentices to support effective recruitment in that occupation or industry.

What is the aim of the Advisers Program?

The Advisers Program forms part of the Government's initial direction setting response to the findings and recommendations of the *Apprenticeships for the 21st Century* Expert Panel report. The overarching aim of the Advisers Program is to increase the retention rates of Australian Apprentices in order to improve completion rates and support the supply of skilled workers in sectors and occupations where there is a current or emerging skills need.

What are the target groups for the Advisers Program?

The Advisers Program primarily targets, but is not restricted to, school leavers who are considering a career in a skilled occupation with demonstrated skills need and would like to know more about an Australian Apprenticeship in that occupation or industry.

What would an Advisers Project look like?

Projects funded under the Advisers Program will deliver Apprenticeships Advisers that are knowledgeable in their specific occupation or industry who are able to communicate information about Australian Apprenticeships (and their specific occupation or industry) effectively. This information will need to be tailored for the target audience (e.g. school leavers).

It is expected that Apprenticeships Advisers will work to improve the understanding, awareness and realistic expectations of potential Australian Apprenticeship candidates of the occupation or industry of interest to them and the apprenticeship arrangements within that occupation or industry.



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As such, Apprenticeships Advisers will provide accurate, balanced and up to date information to potential Australian Apprenticeship candidates and other interested groups, such as new employers, on:

- Australian Apprenticeship arrangements within the occupations or industries currently identified as experiencing skills shortage;
- The kind of work required, benefits and challenges of working in occupations or industries currently identified as experiencing skills shortage; and
- Tools and strategies which the potential Australian Apprentice candidate can use to prepare themselves and search for an apprenticeship within occupations or industries currently identified as experiencing skill shortage.

Apprenticeships Advisers under the Program will be providing information, not career guidance. If Apprenticeships Advisers are presenting their information in forums where career guidance may also be required, they may benefit from partnering with a qualified career practitioner to ensure that the needs of their audience are met.

Funded Projects could involve Apprenticeships Advisers delivering information through a combination of delivery mechanisms, consistent with the structures and the workforce development needs of the occupation or industry, the needs of potential Australian Apprentices in that occupation or industry and any pre-existing information.

How can funding be accessed?

The Australian Apprenticeships Advisers Program Guidelines have been released and the Program is open to receive applications for funding.

Organisations wishing to apply for funding under the Advisers Program are encouraged to consult www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au for up to date information and to access the Program Guidelines and application form.

Under the Advisers Program, industry-led proposals are encouraged. It is envisaged that Adviser Projects will demonstrate multi-jurisdictional coverage, or clearly target a regional need.

What funding is allocated for the Advisers Program?

Approximately \$21 million over two years (2011–12 and 2012–13).

Want to know more?

All enquiries for the Advisers Program can be directed to mentoringpackage@deewr.gov.au

