



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.



SUPPORT FOR MID-CAREER APPRENTICES

What is the Support for Mid-Career Apprentices initiative?

The objective of the Support for Mid-Career Apprentices initiative is to encourage more Australians 30 and over to undertake a trade apprenticeship by providing additional financial incentives. Apprentice wage rates can be a disincentive to the take-up of apprenticeships by older workers. Support for Mid-Career Apprentices payments will be paid to either employers to subsidise wage costs or Australian Apprentices to boost their income.

Am I Eligible?

Australians aged 30 and over who commence an Australian Apprenticeship at Certificate III or IV level in a trade experiencing a skills shortage may attract Support for Mid-Career Apprentices payments. People commencing an eligible Australian Apprenticeship on or after 1 July 2007 will be required to undertake a Recognition of Prior Learning assessment.

What about Australian Apprentices already in an Australian Apprenticeship on 1 July 2007?

If an apprentice is still in the first or second year of an eligible Australian Apprenticeship the Australian Apprentice or their employer may receive the payments from 1 July 2007 until the end of their second year. For example, if an Australian Apprentice commenced on 1 January 2007, the Australian Apprentice or the employer may receive the fortnightly payments from 1 July 2007 until the end of the second year on 31 December 2008.

How do I apply and get paid?

Australian Apprentices or employers will be able to apply for the initiative through their Australian Apprenticeships Centre. Payments will be made fortnightly via direct credit into a nominated bank account.

How much will be paid?

The amount will be \$150 per week (\$7,800 per annum) in the first year of the apprenticeship and \$100 per week (\$5,200 per annum) in the second year of the apprenticeship or until completion of the apprenticeship if completion occurs within the first two years.

Who will get the payment?

For you as the Australian Apprentice to be paid you must be employed under an industrial instrument which includes a junior apprenticeship rate.

For you as the employer to be paid the Australian Apprentice must be employed under an industrial instrument where there is an adult apprenticeship rate and where you as the employer are required to maintain the existing wage for current employees who become Australian Apprentices or to pay current or new employees an adult apprenticeship rate.

Information on workplace relations can be obtained from the Workplace Infoline on 1300 363 264.

Do I need to pay Tax?

Support for Mid-Career Apprentices payments are treated as assessable income for both Australian Apprentices and employers. It is the responsibility of the recipient to seek their own taxation advice.

For Australian Apprentices who are in receipt of Support for Mid-Career Apprentices support payments, DEEWR will withhold tax on these payments.

Employers who are in receipt of Support for Mid-Career Apprentices subsidy payments must declare any payments they receive in line with their usual arrangements for declaring income to the Tax Office.

For information on the tax treatment of the Support for Mid-Career Apprentices subsidy payment you can:

- Phone the Tax Office on 13 28 66; or
- Contact your tax adviser.

Are you an apprentice in receipt of Centrelink benefits?

If you are in receipt of any Centrelink benefits and receiving payments under the Support for Mid-Career Apprentices initiative you must declare your Support for Mid-Career Apprentices income to Centrelink. For further information on how this may affect your Centrelink payments you can phone Centrelink on [13 36 33](tel:133633).

How do I contact my Australian Apprenticeships Centre?

For more information about the Support for Mid-Career Apprentices initiative contact your nearest Australian Apprenticeships Centre on [13 38 73](tel:133873) or visit the Australian Apprenticeships website at www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au.

Which trades are eligible?

Benefits under the Australian Government's Support for Mid-Career Apprentices initiative may be available to eligible Australian Apprentices in the following trades*:

- Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (Avionics)
- Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (Mechanical)
- Automotive Electrician
- Baker
- Binder and Finisher
- Boat Builder and Repairer
- Bricklayer
- Butcher
- Cabinetmaker
- Carpenter
- Carpenter and Joiner
- Cook
- Drainer
- Electrical Powerline Tradesperson
- Electrician (Special Class)
- Electronic Equipment Tradesperson
- Fibrous Plasterer
- Fitter
- Flat Glass Tradesperson
- Floor Finisher
- Furniture Finisher
- Furniture Upholsterer
- Gasfitter
- General Electrician
- General Plumber
- Hairdresser
- Joiner
- Locksmith
- Mechanical Services and Air-conditioning Plumber
- Metal Fabricator
- Metal Machinist (First Class)
- Motor Mechanic
- Optical Mechanic
- Painter and Decorator
- Panel Beater
- Pastry Cook
- Picture Framer
- Pressure Welder
- Printing Machinist
- Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Mechanic
- Roof Plumber
- Screen Printer
- Shearer
- Sheetmetal Worker (First Class)
- Signwriter
- Solid Plasterer
- Stonemason
- Toolmaker
- Tree Surgeon
- Vehicle Body Maker
- Vehicle Painter
- Vehicle Trimmer
- Wall and Floor Tiler
- Welder (First Class)
- Wood Machinist (A-Grade)

This list is current as at 31 March 2008 but may be subject to change.
Please contact your Australian Apprenticeships Centre to confirm eligibility.