

Additional Information

Accelerated Australian Apprenticeships initiative

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the *Accelerated Australian Apprenticeships* initiative?

The *Accelerated Australian Apprenticeships* initiative is part of the Australian Government's *Building Australia's Future Workforce* package which was announced by the Australian Government on 10 May 2011 in the 2011-2012 Budget.

The *Accelerated Australian Apprenticeships* initiative is one of the Government's initial direction setting responses to the recommendations in the final report of the *Apprenticeships for the 21st Century* Expert Panel relating to competency-based progression in apprenticeships and traineeships. The Report can be found at www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au.

What is the initiative aiming to achieve?

The initiative aims to support a systemic and cultural shift to competency-based progression and completion in vocational education and training with a focus on Australian Apprenticeships. Industry will lead projects under this initiative which will enable industry to develop and implement innovative strategies that embed and further the reach of competency-based progression to expedite the supply of skilled workers. Competency-based progression and completion in Australian Apprenticeships has the potential to provide more attractive apprenticeship pathways, while maintaining quality in training.

The initiative aims to fund projects that will influence the quality of the Australian Apprenticeships system at a national level with the expectation that funding would potentially support major, multi-jurisdictional sector-wide partnerships.

Who will benefit?

Australian Apprentices who satisfactorily complete the required competencies earlier will benefit by obtaining their formal qualification sooner. Employers will benefit from the productivity gains realised through earlier completion of training.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

The *Accelerated Australian Apprenticeships* initiative provides nearly \$100 million over four years, plus industry co-contribution. There is nearly \$30 million available this financial year.

Funding for the initiative will be delivered through a co-contribution model with requirements detailed in the Program Guidelines.

What are the next steps?

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) has opened the application process for the *Accelerated Australian Apprenticeships* initiative.

It is expected that some funding arrangements may be in place by the end of 2011 and supported projects will commence in early 2012.

How do I apply for funding under the initiative?

Details on how to apply, including the Application Form, Program Guidelines and further information on eligibility is available at:

<http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/AAA/Home.asp>.

Who can apply for funding?

Industry Skills Councils and Peak Industry Bodies are expected to lead large-scale projects to generate widespread take-up of a shift towards competency-based progression, working in partnership with enterprises, training organisations, unions and other stakeholders.

Refer to the *Accelerated Australian Apprenticeships* initiative Program Guidelines for more information.

When can applications be submitted?

Applications for funding can be submitted to DEEWR at any time. Early applications are encouraged to ensure availability of funding. DEEWR may also, at its discretion, call for applications through formal Funding Rounds. Refer to the Program Guidelines for more information.

Is there an alternative application process?

The *Accelerated Australian Apprenticeships* initiative also forms part of Australian Government Skills Connect which was announced by Senator Evans on 21 September 2011. Australian Government Skills Connect is designed to consolidate the Government's Skills programs and better target industry and worker training. Australian Government Skills Connect will allow industry to apply for funding with a whole-of-workforce proposal to meet current and emerging skills needs. More information about Australian Government Skills Connect will be available shortly.

Where to get more information

Visit www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/AAA/Home.asp, email AcceleratedAustralianApprenticeships@deewr.gov.au or call 133 873 (8.00am to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday).