



Summary

of the Australian Government Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program

From 1 May 2009

Australian Apprenticeships

The objective of the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program 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). The Australian Government also funds a range of personal benefits for Australian Apprentices to encourage retention in, and completion of, their Australian Apprenticeship.

Australian Apprenticeships Centres

Australian Apprenticeships Centres provide a free service to employers and Australian Apprentices. For more information or assistance on the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program, you should contact an Australian Apprenticeships Centre in your region. Contact details can be obtained by calling 13 38 73 or visiting <http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/>

Waiting periods

There is a three month waiting period before an employer can apply for an Australian Government Commencement Incentive for an Australian Apprentice in which time the Australian Apprentice must still be employed by the same employer and must have commenced training in accordance with the approved training contract. 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 Apprenticeships Incentives Program

The following summarises the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program for all Australian Apprentices (apprentices and trainees). Payment of incentives is subject to employers and their Australian Apprentices satisfying eligibility criteria as set out in the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program Guidelines.

Standard Commencement, Recommencement and Completion Incentives

\$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, IV or selected Diploma and Advanced Diploma qualifications.

\$750 incentive for employers recommencing out-of-trade Certificate III, IV or selected Diploma and Advanced Diploma Australian Apprentices.

Employers of Australian Apprentices who successfully complete a Certificate III, IV or selected Diploma or Advanced Diploma qualification may be eligible to receive the \$2,500 completion incentive.

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.

Rural and Regional Incentive

- 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 List occupation in a non-metropolitan area.



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Australian School-based Apprenticeships - Additional Commencement and Retention	\$750 additional incentive for an employer who employs an Australian Apprentice in an endorsed Australian School-based Apprenticeship at the Certificate II to IV level or in selected diplomas and advanced diplomas. \$750 for an employer who continues to employ a Certificate II to IV level or selected diploma or advanced diploma Australian School-based Apprentice after the student has completed Year 12.
Declared Drought Areas - Additional Commencement and Special Completion	\$1,500 additional incentive for employers of eligible Certificate II Australian Apprentices who have a current Exceptional Circumstances Drought Area certificate. \$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 Commencement and Special Completion	\$750 special incentive for an employer who commences an eligible Certificate II or higher level Australian Apprentice who is a disadvantaged person aged 45 years or more. \$750 special incentive for an employer on the successful completion of a Certificate II or higher level 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 Disability	The Program provides additional assistance to eligible employers who employ a Certificate II or higher level Australian Apprentice with disability. Assistance may include a wage support payment or tutorial, interpreter and mentor services.
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 or higher level Australian Apprentice had to move away from their parental/guardian home to commence or remain in an Australian Apprenticeship, or is homeless.
Commonwealth Trade Learning Scholarship	The Commonwealth Trade Learning Scholarship provides two tax exempt \$500 payments to eligible Australian Apprentices undertaking qualifications in a National Skills Needs List trade with a small or medium size enterprise or Group Training Organisation. The scholarship is paid to Australian Apprentices after they complete the first 12 and 24 months full-time (or part-time equivalent) employment in their Australian Apprenticeship.
Apprenticeship Wage Top-Up	Australian Apprentices under 30 years of age undertaking a qualification in a National Skills Needs List trade at the Certificate III or IV level may be eligible for \$1,000 worth of tax exempt payments per year for the first and second years of their Australian Apprenticeship. These payments are made in bi-annual instalments of \$500.
Support for Mid-Career Apprentices	Australian Government financial support is available for mid-career workers (aged 30 years or over) to upgrade their skills through an apprenticeship at the Certificate III or IV level in an occupation listed on the National Skills Needs List. The payment is made to either the employer <u>or</u> the Australian Apprentice depending on award arrangements and is set at \$150 per week (\$7,800 per annum) in the first year and \$100 per week (\$5,200 per annum) in the second year.



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**Further Australian
Government Assistance
available for Australian
Apprentices**

Australian Apprentices may be eligible for income support through Youth Allowance, Austudy or ABSTUDY. More information is available from Centrelink on 13 36 33.

**Securing Apprenticeships
and Traineeships Initiative**

Up to \$2,800 for employers of eligible Australian Apprentices undertaking an occupation listed on the National Skills Needs List or selected Diploma and Advanced Diploma level qualifications.

**-Recommencement Bonus
and Completion Bonus**

This comprises a Recommencement Bonus of \$1,800 paid at the twelve week point after an employer recommences an eligible out-of-trade Australian Apprentice (on or after 1 January 2009) and a \$1,000 Completion Bonus paid on successful completion (where the eligible Australian Apprentice completes on or after 1 January 2009).



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