



Supporting Apprentices and Trainees

Questions and Answers

Updated: 21 July 2020

As part of the [Government's Economic Response to COVID-19](#), \$2.8 billion will be made available to almost 90,000 businesses to help them keep around 180,000 apprentices and trainees across the country in work and training.

1. What is Supporting Apprentices and Trainees?

Eligible employers can apply for a wage subsidy of 50 per cent of the apprentice or trainee's wages paid until 31 March 2021. In addition to the existing support for small businesses, medium-sized businesses will now be eligible for the subsidy, for wages paid from 1 July 2020 – 31 March 2021. Subsidies will also be available to any new employer who re-engages an eligible apprentice that was displaced by an eligible small or medium sized business.

2. How much will be available to employers?

Eligible employers will receive assistance in the form of a wage subsidy reimbursed in arrears at 50 per cent of the apprentice's or trainee's wage, up to \$7,000 per quarter.

3. Who is eligible?

An employer who retains an apprentice or trainee in their Australian Apprenticeship may be eligible for the subsidy where:

An employer is a **small business**:

- with fewer than 20 employees; or
- with fewer than 20 employees, using a Group Training Organisation; and
- the apprentice or trainee was undertaking an Australian Apprenticeship with you on 1 July 2020 for claims after this date. Claims prior to 1 July 2020, will continue to be based on the 1 March 2020 eligibility date.

An employer is a **medium-sized business**:

- with fewer than 200 employees; or
- with fewer than 200 employees, using a Group Training Organisation; and
- the apprentice or trainee was undertaking an Australian Apprenticeship with the business on 1 July 2020.

The wage subsidy is also available to employers of any size, including a Group Training Organisation, if they re-engage an eligible apprentice or trainee that has been displaced from an eligible small or medium business.

Final detailed eligibility requirements will be outlined in program guidelines.

4. Why was this program not expanded to include large employers?

The Australian Government is committed to delivering targeted, scalable support and the first priority is those businesses that are most vulnerable to these conditions.

This is why eligibility for this program is linked to apprentices and trainees employed by a small and medium sized businesses. This measure now supports the majority of both employers of apprentices and, apprentices in Australia.

5. Are Group Training Organisations eligible for the subsidy?

Group Training Organisations will be eligible for the subsidy to retain an apprentice or trainee where the eligible apprentice's or trainee's host employer was a small business (at 1 March 2020) or a medium-sized business (at 1 July 2020).

Group Training Organisations will also be eligible for the subsidy if their host employer re-engages an apprentice or trainee where the apprentice's or trainee's employer at 1 March 2020 was a small business or at 1 July 2020 was a medium business, and they were subsequently released from their apprenticeship or traineeship.

6. Does an employer need to be a small to medium business when they re-engage an apprentice or trainee?

No, to be eligible for the subsidy to re-engage an apprentice or trainee, an employer does not need to be a small to medium business.

7. When will Supporting Apprentices and Trainees be available?

Employers will be able to access the subsidy after an eligibility assessment is undertaken by an [Australian Apprenticeship Support Network provider](#) (AASN) and following submission of a claim form and other supporting documentation by the employer.

Claims for eligible small businesses are open now and claims for eligible medium businesses will be open from 1 October 2020.

Final claims for payment must be lodged by 30 June 2021.

8. How are payments made?

Payments are made directly to the recipient's nominated bank account.

9. How do employers register and apply for the subsidy?

Employers should contact an [Australian Apprenticeship Support Network provider](#) (AASN).

AASN providers are contracted by the Australian Government to administer *Supporting Apprentices and Trainees* as part of the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program. An AASN provider will be able to determine eligibility for the subsidy and assist with making a claim.

10. Are employers eligible for Supporting Apprentices and Trainees and other incentives available under the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program?

Yes, employers and Group Training Organisations that receive a subsidy to either retain or re-engage an eligible apprentice or trainee under *Supporting Apprentices and Trainees* will continue to be eligible for other incentives available under the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program.

For example, an employer who retains their apprentice or trainee, may have been assessed as eligible for commencement and completion incentives along with other targeted incentives such as Support for Adult Australian Apprentices (SAAA) if their apprentice or trainee is aged 21 years or over.

An employer who re-engages an apprentice or trainee, may also be eligible for a recommencement incentive as well as a completion incentive. If the re-engaged apprentice or trainee is aged 21 or over, the employer may also be eligible for SAAA.

11. Are employers eligible for Supporting Apprentices and Trainees and the Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy (AAWS)?

Where an employer is in receipt of AAWS for an apprentice they are not eligible for *Supporting Apprentices and Trainees* for that apprentice.

An employer may be eligible for *Supporting Apprentices and Trainees* for any other apprentices that are not attracting AAWS.

12. Is there a limit of Supporting Apprentices and Trainees per employer?

There is no limit. Employers can receive a subsidy under *Supporting Apprentices and Trainees* for any number of apprentices or trainees, provided they meet the eligibility criteria.

13. Where can employers find further information?

Further information is available from [Australian Apprenticeship Support Network provider](#).

Details of AASN providers in each region is available at www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au