



APPRENTICES & TRAINEES

COVID-19 RESPONSE



FEDERAL

GENERAL INFORMATION

Summary

The Government is supporting small business to retain their apprentices and trainees. Eligible employers can apply for a wage subsidy of 50 per cent of the apprentice's or trainee's wage paid during the 9 months from 1 January 2020 to 30 September 2020. Where a small business is not able to retain an apprentice, the subsidy will be available to a new employer.

Employers will be reimbursed up to a maximum of \$21,000 per eligible apprentice or trainee (\$7,000 per quarter).

Support will also be provided to the National Apprentice Employment Network, the peak national body representing Group Training Organisations, to co-ordinate the re-employment of displaced apprentices and trainees throughout their network of host employers across Australia.

Eligibility

The subsidy will be available to small businesses employing fewer than 20 employees who retain an apprentice or trainee. The apprentice or trainee must have been in training with a small business as at 1 March 2020.

Employers of any size and Group Training Organisations that re-engage an eligible out-of-trade apprentice or trainee will be eligible for the subsidy.

Employers will be able to access the subsidy after an eligibility assessment is undertaken by an Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (AASN) provider.

This measure will support up to 70,000 small businesses, employing around 117,000 apprentices.

Timing

Employers can register for the subsidy from early April 2020. Final claims for payment must be lodged by 31 December 2020.

Further information is available at:

- ▶ The Department of Education, Skills and Employment website at: www.dese.gov.au
- ▶ Australian Apprenticeships website at: www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au



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For further information on how to apply for the subsidy, including information on eligibility, contact an Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (AASN) provider.

HOW TO APPLY

For further information on how to apply for the subsidy, including information on eligibility, contact an Australian Apprenticeship Support Network provider via australianapprenticeships.gov.au/search-aasn.

FAQS

Is my business eligible?

Your small business may be eligible if:

- ▶ You employ fewer than 20 people; or
- ▶ You are a small business with fewer than 20 people, using a Group Training Organisation; and
- ▶ The apprentice or trainee was undertaking an Australian Apprenticeship with you on 1 March 2020.

Any employer (including all small, medium or large businesses and Group Training Organisations) who re-engages an apprentice or trainee displaced from a small business after 1 March 2020 may also be eligible for the subsidy.

How much is the subsidy?

Eligible employers will receive a wage subsidy of up to 50 per cent of the wage, reimbursed in arrears.

- ▶ Worth up to \$7,000 per quarter (to a maximum of \$21,000), per eligible apprentice or trainee.
- ▶ Available for a maximum of nine months, covering wages paid from 1 January 2020 to 30 September 2020.

Anything else I should know?

Businesses that claim this subsidy for wages paid during the period 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2020 will not be precluded from applying for the JobKeeper Payment from 30 March 2020 - if you are eligible. After this time, you will need to choose which payment best supports your circumstances.