



# Supporting apprentices and trainees

This assistance will help businesses to retain their employees. The wage subsidy for apprentices and trainees will help to ensure the continued development of the skilled workforce.

## Summary

The Government is supporting small businesses and Group Training Organisations to retain their apprentices and trainees. Where a small business is not able to retain an apprentice, a re-engagement subsidy is available to a new employer of any size.

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

## Eligibility

The subsidy will be available to support small businesses with fewer than 20 employees, including those using a Group Training Organisation, who retain an apprentice or trainee. 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. The apprentice or trainee must have been in an Australian Apprenticeship 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.

Group Training Organisations, with an apprentice or trainee working in a host business of any size in receipt of the JobKeeper Payment, may be eligible for a subsidy equivalent to \$1,500 per fortnight. This applies to wages paid from 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020. The apprentice or trainee must have been in an Australian Apprenticeship as at 1 March 2020.

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

## Timing

Applications opened on 2 April 2020, with payments made quarterly in arrears. 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](http://www.dese.gov.au)
- Australian Apprenticeships website at: [www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au](http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au)

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

## Budget impact

This measure is expected to cost \$1.3 billion across 2019-20 and 2020-21.

### David's Plumbing

David's Plumbing is a small business that employs 10 people, including two Australian Apprentices.

Taylor is a first year Australian Apprentice, aged 20, undertaking a Certificate III qualification. She commenced her apprenticeship with David's Plumbing on 6 February 2020. Taylor receives a weekly wage of \$532.89.

Lisa is a third year Australian Apprentice, aged 29, undertaking a Certificate IV qualification. She commenced her apprenticeship with David's Plumbing on 18 November 2017. She receives a weekly wage of \$772.71.

David's Plumbing are eligible for *Supporting Apprentices and Trainees* which pays 50 per cent of the apprentices' wages that have been paid by David's Plumbing since 1 January 2020.

David's Plumbing will receive:

- \$9,059 subsidy for employing Taylor for 6 February 2020 to 30 September 2020; and
- \$15,068 subsidy for employing Lisa for 1 January 2020 to 30 September 2020.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the Australian Government's Economic Response to the Coronavirus visit [treasury.gov.au/coronavirus](https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus).

Businesses can visit [business.gov.au](https://business.gov.au) to find out more about how the Economic Response complements the range of support available to small and medium businesses.