



# Summary

## of the Australian Government Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Programme

*From 1 July 2007*

### **Australian Apprenticeships**

The objective of the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Programme 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 Programme, you should contact an Australian Apprenticeships Centre in your region. Contact details can be obtained by calling 13 38 73 or visiting [www.australia.gov.au/australianapprenticeships](http://www.australia.gov.au/australianapprenticeships)

### **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 Apprentices 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 Government Incentives**

The following summarises the Australian Government Australian Apprenticeships Incentives regime for all Australian Apprentices (apprentices and trainees). Payment of incentives will be subject to employers and their Australian Apprentices satisfying eligibility criteria as set out in the Australian Government Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Programme 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 Certificate III, IV or selected Diploma and Advanced Diploma qualifications may be eligible to receive either 25%, 50%, 75% or 100% of 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 occupation in a non-metropolitan area.



**Australian Government**

**Department of Education, Science and Training**

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<b>Australian School-based Apprenticeships – Additional Commencement and Retention</b>	<p>\$750 additional incentive for an employer who employs an Australian Apprentice in an endorsed Australian School-based Apprenticeship at Certificate II to IV level and in selected diplomas and advanced diplomas.</p> <p>\$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.</p>
<b>Declared Drought Areas – Additional Commencement and Special Completion</b>	<p>\$1,500 additional incentive for employers of eligible Certificate II Australian Apprentices who are employed by an employer who has a current Exceptional Circumstances Drought Area certificate.</p> <p>\$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.</p>
<b>Mature Aged Worker – Special Commencement and Special Completion</b>	<p>\$750 special incentive for an employer who commences an eligible Certificate II to higher level Australian Apprentice who is a disadvantaged person aged 45 years or more.</p> <p>\$750 special incentive for an employer on the successful completion of a Certificate II to higher level Australian Apprentice who attracted a Mature Aged Worker special commencement incentive.</p>
<b>Group Training Organisations– Special Completion</b>	<p>\$1,000 special incentive for Group Training Organisations that support Australian Apprentices to complete a Certificate II Australian Apprenticeship.</p>
<b>Assistance for Australian Apprentices with a Disability</b>	<p>The programme provides additional assistance to eligible employers who employ a Certificate II or higher level Australian Apprentice with a disability. Assistance may include a wage support payment, tutorial, interpreter and mentor services.</p>
<b>Living Away From Home Allowance (LAFHA)</b>	<p>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 the parental/guardian home to commence or remain in an Australian Apprenticeship or is homeless.</p>
<b>Commonwealth Trade Learning Scholarship</b>	<p>The Commonwealth Trade Learning Scholarship provides two tax exempt \$500 payments to eligible Australian Apprentices undertaking qualifications in the skill needs trades with a small/medium enterprise or Group Training Organisation. The scholarship is paid to Australian Apprentices after they complete the first 12 and 24 months full-time (or full-time equivalent) employment in their Australian Apprenticeship.</p>
<b>Apprenticeship Wage Top-Up</b>	<p>Australian Apprentices under 30 years of age undertaking a skills needs trade qualification 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, with the first payments made from January 2008.</p>
<b>Support for Mid-Career Apprentices</b>	<p>Australian Government financial support is available for mid-career workers (aged 30 years or more) to upgrade their skills through an apprenticeship at the Certificate III or IV level in a trade occupation in high demand. The payment is made to either the employer or the 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.</p>
<b>Further Australian Government Assistance Available for Australian Apprentices</b>	<p>Australian Apprentices may be eligible for income support through Youth Allowance, Austudy or ABSTUDY. More information is available from Centrelink on 13 36 33.</p> <p>The Tools For Your Trade initiative provides up to \$800 for the purchase of trade tools for eligible Australian Apprentices. More information is available from Tools For Your Trade on 1800 557 875.</p> <p>Australian Apprentices who are undertaking a skills need trade qualification and commence their first or second apprenticeship year on or after 1 July 2007, may be eligible for an Apprenticeship Training Voucher. The voucher will entitle eligible Australian Apprentices or their employers to claim up to \$500 for course fees incurred as part of the first and/or second year of their apprenticeship. For more information on Apprenticeship Training Vouchers call 13 38 73.</p>