



COVID-19

Support for employers

The Government has announced a number of measures to support employers affected by the COVID-19 situation. Visit <https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/businesses> for more information on the economic support available. There are also services available to help retain staff, find new staff and, as a last resort, help displaced staff transition to a new job.

Help to keep your apprentices and trainees, or hire a new one

As part of the economic response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Australian Government is providing wage subsidies up to a maximum value of **\$21,000** per apprentice or trainee.

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

- an employer is a small business with fewer than 20 employees; and
- the apprentice or trainee was in training with the employer on 1 March 2020.

Where a small business is not able to retain an apprentice, the subsidy will be available to a new employer or Group Training Organisation.

Any employer (including all small, medium or large businesses and Group Training Organisations) who re-engages an out-of-trade apprentice or trainee may be eligible for the subsidy where:

- the apprentice or trainee was undertaking an apprenticeship on 1 March 2020, in a small business; and
- the apprentice or trainee was released from the small business; and
- the new employer or Group Training Organisation has engaged the apprentice or trainee.

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

The wage subsidy will be available for a maximum of nine months, covering wages paid from 1 January 2020 to 30 September 2020, or paid from the date of re-employment for an apprentice or trainee who has been displaced.

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

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

Advice for businesses who need to hire staff

jobactive is the Australian Government's recruitment service that helps connect employers with job seekers. There are jobactive providers in 1700 locations across Australia that can provide a tailored recruitment service for your business at no cost to you.

Your local jobactive provider will:

- do the screening and shortlisting for you
- refer candidates to your business
- provide support after your new employee starts work and as they settle into a job.

To find out more, visit jobactive: jobactive.gov.au

Businesses looking to recruit a number of staff can also contact the Department of Education, Skills and Employment directly for recruitment assistance.

This assistance may include:

- Connecting you with a department representative who will tailor a solution to your recruitment needs. This could include a range of recruitment options, such as connecting you with recently retrenched workers in your area and identifying solutions to address skills gaps.
- Information on how to post a job vacancy on the government run jobactive jobs board, which is one of the main jobs boards used by job seekers.
- Assistance connecting with an employment services provider in your region. Job seekers are registering with these government funded providers for assistance to find work.

Please email workforce@dese.gov.au with your contact details and a departmental officer will be in touch.

Advice for businesses to help their employees who have been retrenched

Retrenching employees is a difficult decision and often a last resort.

If you need to lay off staff, you can refer them to Services Australia so they can check their eligibility for income support as quickly as possible. Advice on how to apply for income support is being updated regularly on the Services Australia website. [See their current step-by-step advice](#)

The Government has announced a range of measures to increase financial support and make it easier for newly unemployed people to access payments. [See more](#)

Please encourage people to contact their local jobactive employment provider as soon as they have registered for income support. You can also provide the [Employment services: Information for newly registered job seekers fact sheet](#) [link]

People can take advantage of online resources including [What's Next](#) and [Job Outlook](#) for online training, tips to improve their CV and advice if they wish to pursue work in a new profession or industry.