

YOUR FINANCIAL INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS

For VIC employers

This list indicates the value of the incentives and benefits you may be eligible for as an employer of an apprentice or trainee. It is a guide only. Payment of incentives and benefits will be subject to employers and their apprentices or trainees satisfying the **eligibility criteria**. Details of each incentive and benefit should be discussed with your Industry Training Consultant.

Incentives and Benefits from 01/01/2026 for new and recommencing Australian Apprentices

Priority Hiring Incentive For employers of new or recommencing Australian Apprentices undertaking a Certificate III or higher qualification in a Priority Occupation on the Australian Apprenticeship Priority List. Please see details below relating to the Australian Apprenticeship Priority List.	Payment Rates	Fulltime	Part-time
	6 Months	\$1000	\$500
	12 Months	\$1500	\$750
Key Apprenticeship Program Employer Incentive For employers of eligible Australian Apprentices undertaking a Certificate III or higher qualification aligned with an occupational outcome identified as New Energy or Housing Construction on the Australian Apprenticeships Priority List. Employers must not receive any other form of Australian Government assistance for the same apprenticeship.	Payment Rates	Fulltime	Part-time
	6 Months	\$2000	\$1000
	12 Months	\$3000	\$1500
Disability Australian Apprentice Wage Support (DAAWS) DAAWS is an incentive payable to an employer who employs an apprentice who satisfies the disability eligibility criteria. DAAWS is also available to employers who employ apprentices who become disabled during their apprenticeship. Tutorial, interpreter, and mentor services are available to eligible apprentices who require additional assistance with their off-the-job training.	Payment Rates	Fulltime	Overview
	\$216.07 per week for a full time Australian Apprentice, and on a pro-rata scale according to hours worked for a part-time Australian Apprentice.	Employer	Provides additional assistance to employers who employ an Australian Apprentice with disability in a Certificate II or higher-level qualification.
	\$38.50 per hour (up to a maximum of \$5,500 per year).	RTO	Assistance for tutorial, mentor and interpreter services is available to Registered Training Organisations to support Australian Apprentices with disability who are experiencing difficulty with the off -the-job component of their Australian Apprenticeship because of their disability.
GTO Reimbursement Program The Group Training Organisation Reimbursement Program offers a payment to eligible Group Training Organisations (GTOs) who place an Australian Apprentice training towards a qualification and occupation listed on the Australian Apprenticeships Priority List with a Small or Medium Enterprise (SME) that has not directly engaged or hosted an Australian Apprentice through a GTO within the last two years.		Overview GTOs may be eligible to receive a payment valued at \$100 per week, up to \$5,200 (GST inclusive) paid over 52 weeks, to reimburse some or all the costs of the usual GTO service fees usually charged to an SME in respect of the eligible Australian Apprenticeship Placement.	
Australian Apprenticeship Priority List Resource https://www.dewr.gov.au/australian-apprenticeships/apprenticeship-support#toc-australian-apprenticeship-priority-list			
*Key Apprenticeship Program Occupations are identified on the Australian Apprenticeship priority list.			

State and Australian Government financial incentives and benefits as at January 2026. Industry Associations may have additional schemes and funding available. Check with your industry organisation directly. Waiting periods are in place before an employer can apply for an Australian Government Incentive for an Australian Apprentice. The National Training Contract must be formally approved and probationary period completed. The Australian Apprentice must still be employed by the same employer and commenced training in accordance with the approved training plan. Benefits and services are subject to change at any time without notice. Please check our website [apprenticeshipsupport.com.au](https://www.apprenticeshipsupport.com.au) for full and current details. Existing Worker: For Federal Government incentives purposes the definition of an Existing Worker is a person who has an employment relationship with the employer for more than 3 months full-time, or 12 months permanent part-time/casual, or a combination equivalent to more than 3 months full-time. For access to State funding, e.g. User Choice, the State Training Authority may calculate the Existing Worker status differently. Please contact Apprenticeship Support Australia for further advice.

For Australian Apprentices commencing or recommencing prior to 01/07/2022, will be eligible for payments under the Australian Apprenticeships Incentive Program (AAIP).

Incentives and Benefits from 01/01/2026 for new and recommencing Australian Apprentices

Payroll Tax Rebates	Payroll tax rebates are available in some cases for re-employed apprentices or trainees wages.	For more information visit: sro.vic.gov.au/payroll-tax/exempt-wages-and-organisations or call: 13 21 61
Workers Compensation Premium Reduction	Some apprentice and trainee remuneration (including superannuation) is exempt from WorkCover insurance so you need to be aware of the restrictions and qualifications that apply.	Apprentices and New Entrant Trainees. Conditions apply. For more information visit: worksafe.vic.gov.au/apprentices-and-trainees
State Funded Training		For more information visit: education.vic.gov.au

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