

Financial and other assistance

The New South Wales and Australian Governments provide financial incentives and assistance to employers, apprentices and trainees. See <http://apprenticeship.det.nsw.edu.au/html/advins/atadf004.htm> for the current list of NSW incentives and <http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/employer/incentives.asp> for Australian Government incentives.

11.1 Financial and other assistance available to employers

The NSW Government:

- meets all or part of the cost of formal training delivered by registered training organisations for apprentices and new entrant trainees who are Australian citizens or permanent residents
- provides employers with payroll tax rebates for new entrant trainees and apprentices
- provides workers compensation insurance premium exemptions for employers of apprentices
- provides a small business vehicle registration rebate for employers of apprentices who commenced between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2008

The Australian Government provides:

- **financial incentives** – which may be paid at various points of the training contract (i.e. commencement, re-commencement and completion)
- **additional incentives** – which assist apprentices and trainees working in skills shortage and 'disadvantaged' areas, group training, as well as locality incentives for people working in non-metropolitan or 'drought declared' regional and rural areas
- **disability incentives** – for employers of apprentices and trainees with a disability. Assistance includes Disabled Australian Apprentice Wage Support (DAAWS), workplace modifications, tutorial assistance and mentor/interpreter assistance.

An employer must satisfy relevant eligibility criteria, including time limits for applying, to be eligible for incentives. Details of eligibility requirements and up-to-date information on financial incentives can be obtained from Australian Apprenticeships Centres.

Note: The employer of an existing worker trainee may be eligible for Commonwealth Government financial incentives but is not entitled to NSW Government financial assistance.

11.2 Financial assistance available to apprentices and trainees

The NSW Government provides:

- Payments under the Vocational Training Assistance Scheme (VTAS) to apprentices and new entrant trainees who need to travel more than 120km (round trip) to attend day or block release training with a registered training organisation. Assistance is in the form of an accommodation payment per day and a travel

payment per kilometre that applies to both public and private means of transport. Check current rates with an Australian Apprenticeships Centre or your local State Training Services centre (ph 13 28 11).

- Public transport concessions for travel on NSW Government buses, ferries and trains for new entrant trainees and for 1st, 2nd and 3rd year apprentices.
- A \$100 rebate on the cost of car registration for first and second year apprentices
- From 1 January 2008, a \$200 *Gear Up* clothing allowance for apprentices

The Commonwealth Government provides:

- a Living Away From Home Allowance (LAFHA) for first, second and third year trainees and apprentices who need to live away from home for employment purposes
- Financial support for mid-career Australians (aged 30 years or more) to upgrade their skills through an Australian Apprenticeship in a trade experiencing a skill shortage
- A *Tools for Your Trade* allowance for apprentices and trainees in identified skill shortage areas
- Apprenticeship Training (Fee) Vouchers valued at up to \$500 may be available to eligible first and second year apprentices undertaking an Australian Apprenticeship in a skills shortage area.
- Trade learning scholarships to Australian Apprentices employed by a small or medium employer (companies having fewer than 500 employees) or a Group Training Organisation listed on the Group Training National Register who commence their first or second year of training at the Certificate III or IV level in a trade experiencing a skills shortage may be eligible for tax-free payments of \$1000 paid in two \$500 instalments.

Apprentices and trainees must satisfy relevant eligibility criteria, including time limits for applying, to be eligible for Commonwealth and NSW Government concessions and allowances.

Eligibility requirements and application forms can be obtained from an Australian Apprenticeships Centre.

Existing worker trainees are not entitled to NSW Government financial assistance. However, employers of existing worker trainees may be eligible to receive Australian Government incentives. The employer's nominated Australian Apprenticeships Centre can provide advice to employers about this. For a definition of existing worker trainees see section 15 – Key Terms.

