



Australian Government

A U S T R A L I A N A P P R E N T I C E S H I P S

Your Life. Your Career. Your Future.

www.australia.gov.au/australianapprenticeships

Interested in an Australian Apprenticeship?

From 1 July 2006, Australian Apprenticeships will replace the scheme formerly known as New Apprenticeships. The scheme will still encompass all apprenticeships and traineeships which combine time at work with training and can be full-time; part-time or school-based.

The change of name and appearance is the first step in a range of improvements in Australian Apprenticeships to be introduced in the coming months.

The Australian Apprenticeships scheme will continue to provide opportunities for people to gain industry-recognised skills, national qualifications and establish a worthwhile career.

Australian Apprenticeships are a stepping stone to ongoing employment or further education and training, and a great way to get a head start in the career you want.

From 1 July 2006, the name for the New Apprenticeships scheme is changing to Australian Apprenticeships, however, the Australian Government incentives and personal benefits programme are still the same.

What is an Australian Apprenticeship?

Australian Apprenticeships are a great career option.

They combine practical work with structured training so that you graduate with a nationally recognised qualification and the experience that you need to get the job you want.

Australian Apprenticeships are available to anyone of working age and do not require any entry qualifications. You can be a school-leaver, re-entering the workforce or a mature aged worker simply wishing to change careers.

Australian Apprenticeships are available in a variety of certificate levels in more than 500 occupations across Australia, in traditional trades, as well as a diverse range of emerging careers in most sectors of business and industry.

How do I get an Australian Apprenticeship?

There are many ways to learn more about Australian Apprenticeships and to find a job. You can contact an Australian Apprenticeships Centre in your region, visit the Australian Apprenticeship website, search advertised job vacancies, contact employers in industries where you would like to work, contact your local Group Training Organisation, Centrelink office or Job Network provider (call **136 268** or visit www.jobnetwork.gov.au) or discuss Australian Apprenticeships with your careers adviser.

Why choose an Australian Apprenticeship?

- A great way to get a head start in a chosen career.
- Paid work and structured training that can be on-the-job, off-the-job or a combination of both.
- 'Competency based' which means you can complete your training faster if you reach the required skills level.
- Existing skills and prior experience are recognised and course credit granted, potentially reducing formal training time.
- Available as full-time or part-time, also available part-time in many schools.
- Leads to nationally recognised qualifications and skills which provide the basis for further education and training over the course of your working life.
- A pathway from school to work.

Can I start an Australian Apprenticeship while at school?

You may be able to start an Australian School-based Apprenticeship while you are still at school. Australian School-based Apprenticeships enable you to gain a vocational and technical qualification while completing your school studies and gives you a head start with work. Your careers adviser and teachers will know if you are able to undertake an Australian Apprenticeship while you are studying and can assist you in choosing the most suitable subjects.

Through one of 25 Australian Technical Colleges, school students are able to access combined Year 11 and 12 studies and vocational education at the Certificate III level with a focus on the five priority industries of metals and engineering, automotive, building and construction, electrotechnology and commercial cookery.

More information on Australian Technical Colleges is available at www.australiantechnicalcolleges.gov.au

Can I get any additional assistance?

The Australian Government supports Australian Apprentices and their employers with a system of financial incentives. These incentives encourage employers to offer employment related training opportunities that will encourage people, especially young people, to acquire and expand their working skills which will set them towards a worthwhile career.

Eligible Australian Apprentices are able to apply for the following assistance:

- Living Away From Home Allowance.
- Disabled Apprentices Wage Support and tutorial assistance for people with disabilities.
- Youth Allowance (for Australian Apprentices aged 16-24).
- Austudy (for Australian Apprentices aged 25 and over).
- ABSTUDY (Apprentices who have reached minimum school leaving age and are Indigenous Australians).
- Commonwealth Trade Learning Scholarships (two \$500 payments for undertaking Australian Apprenticeship in an area of particular skills need with a small/medium employer or a Group Training Organisation).

- Tools For Your Trade Initiative (tool kit worth up to \$800 for undertaking an Australian Apprenticeship in an area of particular skills needs).

Call your local Australian Apprenticeship Centre on **1800 639 629** (freecall) for more information. For more information regarding Tools For Your Trade, call **1800 557 875** or visit www.toolsforyourtrade.com.au

What is an Australian Apprenticeships Centre?

Australian Apprenticeships Centres (formerly New Apprenticeships Centres) are contracted by the Australian Government to provide one-stop shops for those seeking to hire Australian Apprentices or to take up an Australian Apprenticeship as a career path.

Australian Apprenticeships Centres provide information, administration services and support to employers and Australian Apprentices. They assist with the signing of training contracts and also, assess, approve and process the payment of Australian Government employer incentives, scholarships, and income support payments to eligible Australian Apprentices specifically to assist them in the early years of their Australian Apprenticeship when their wages are generally at their lowest.

Australian Apprenticeships Centres now also provide job matching services and work with State and Territory Training Authorities, Job Network members, Registered Training Organisations, schools and community organisations, to promote Australian Apprenticeships and provide Australian Apprenticeships information to employers and prospective apprentices and trainees.

Where can I go for more information?

You can visit an Australian Apprenticeships Centre – there are more than 300 sites across Australia. Free call **1800 639 629** to help you find your local Australian Apprenticeships Centre or you can visit the Australian Apprenticeships website at www.australia.gov.au/australianapprenticeships

From 1 July 2006, Australian Apprenticeships is the name for the New Apprenticeships scheme. A full suite of information products for Australian Apprenticeships will be available soon.