



Skilling Queenslanders for Work

Work Start

What is Work Start?

Work Start incentives form part of *Skilling Queenslanders for Work*. The incentive program aims to encourage traineeship and apprenticeship opportunities for people who have participated in a *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* program and already gained skills.

Work Start provides a \$10,000 incentive payment to private sector employers who employ people in a traineeship or apprenticeship who have recently undertaken a Community Work Skills, Work Skills Traineeships, Ready for Work, Get Set for Work or Youth Skills program.

In 2020–21, up to \$4 million in funding is available for eligible private sector employers across Queensland.

Work Start is administered by the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT).

Who is eligible?

People who have recently undertaken a Community Work Skills, Work Skills Traineeships, Ready for Work, Get Set for Work or Youth Skills program under *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* and are subsequently employed in a traineeship or apprenticeship may attract a Work Start incentive for their employer.

An eligible person is someone who meets the following criteria:

- has participated **for a minimum two months** on one of the programs mentioned above (note: shorter participation times may be considered on a case-by-case basis upon application);
- is registered in a Queensland declared traineeship or apprenticeship and has commenced from 1 July 2020;
- has commenced the traineeship or apprenticeship no more than six months after their exit date from a relevant *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* program;
- has not displaced an existing worker;
- has not previously worked for the employer;
- has completed three months full time or six months part time (defined as 91 days or 182 days respectively) of employment in the traineeship or apprenticeship, and is still employed at the time of claiming a payment; and
- has commenced the traineeship or apprenticeship after exiting the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* program i.e. is not an existing trainee or apprentice.

Former *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* participants do not attract an incentive if they have completed a First Start traineeship or are undertaking a school-based traineeship or apprenticeship.

An eligible person can only attract one Work Start incentive.

If the eligible person ceases their traineeship or apprenticeship after a Work Start incentive has been paid and then recommences their traineeship or apprenticeship with a second employer, the second employer is not eligible for a Work Start incentive.

Private sector employers should endeavour to retain the Work Start trainee or apprentice in employment on completion of the training contract.

Who can apply for an incentive?

Private sector employers (including group training organisations and non-government organisations) that sign up an eligible person from 1 July 2020 are eligible to apply for a Work Start incentive. They must not be eligible for an employer support payment under the Queensland Government's [Back to Work](#) Regional and South East Queensland employment package.

Private sector employers in receipt of Work Start incentives are also eligible to apply for other incentives offered by the Queensland and Australian Governments, however, they are not able to receive both the Work Start incentive and the Back to Work employer support payment.

What is the application process?

Every participant will receive a letter while undertaking their *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* program to give to prospective employers. The letter includes a Work Start registration form for employers to complete and send back to DESBT.

The registration form is easy to complete as it contains pre-populated fields for the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* participant and project details. The registration form must be signed by the employer and the trainee or apprentice.

Once the qualifying period of three or six months has passed and the details verified, DESBT will automatically send the employer a claim for payment form. Funds will be transferred to the employer's nominated bank account upon return of the claim for payment form.

More information

For more information about Work Start:

Phone: 1300 369 935

Email: training@desbt.qld.gov.au

Visit: desbt.qld.gov.au/training/communityorgs/funded/sqw