

# Frequently Asked Questions

Changes to the User Choice 2010–2015 Program for School based Apprentices and Trainees from 1 July 2013

From 1 July 2013, the User Choice Policy was changed to remove the 100% Government contribution to School – based Apprentices and Trainees (SATs) and align future funding to the priority level of the qualification.

- Priority One (100 percent subsidised) – lead to occupations deemed to be critical priorities in Queensland.
- Priority Two (75 percent subsidised) – lead to occupations not deemed critical in Queensland but considered as high priorities.
- Priority Three (50 percent subsidised) – lead to occupations not deemed critical in Queensland but considered as medium priorities.

## **If I am part of a Priority Population Group, what subsidy level am I entitled to?**

Priority Population Groups (PPG) are those declared on the national Apprenticeship or Traineeship Contract, such as individuals of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, individuals from a non-English speaking background and individuals with a disability, impairment or long term condition. Individuals belonging to a PPG receive funding at the priority one level, this applies to full time, part time and school based training contracts.

## **If I am undertaking a priority two or three qualification, will the changes mean I have to pay student contribution fees?**

No, under the user choice policy all SATs remain exempt from the student contribution fees (also known as tuition fees) regardless of the priority level of the qualification.

## **I have an existing training contract, will the changes mean the Government contribution will be reduced after 01/07/2013?**

No, the changes will only be for training contracts which commence after the 01/07/2013.

In instances where a training contract commenced prior to 01/07/2013 was subsequently cancelled, and then a new training contract was established with a new employer in the same qualification, the Government contribution towards the cost of the qualification will remain at 100% for the remaining training to be undertaken.

## **Where can I find a Queensland Skills Shortage list to identify priority one qualifications?**

The user choice priorities are determined from national and state data, together with industry input. The Queensland priorities are detailed in the User Choice 2010-2015 Qualification and price list.

To access the full list of funded qualifications and the associated priority level refer to:

<http://www.training.qld.gov.au/resources/training-organisations/xls/uc-2012-2013-full-price-list.xls>

The list can be sorted by priority level and then saved if required. Sorting by priority one will allow the identification of the qualifications which are deemed to be a priority in Queensland and as such are eligible for priority one level funding.

The funding priorities under the User Choice 2010-2015 program are reviewed annually.

## **If from 1 July 2013 the qualification I wish to undertake no longer attracts the 100% Government contribution, who pays the balance?**

The funding priority accorded to a qualification represents the level of public funding contributed towards the cost of training for apprentices and trainees as published in the User Choice price list. As outlined previously, the funding priorities are:

- Priority One (100 percent subsidised)
- Priority Two (75 percent subsidised)
- Priority Three (50 percent subsidised)

If from 1 July 2013 the qualification you wish to undertake now only attracts a 75% or 50% Government contribution because they are Priority Two or Priority Three qualifications respectively, this does not automatically mean there will be any additional costs associated with undertaking the qualification, as in some instances the training provider may decide to deliver the qualification in line with the Government contribution.

If the Government's contribution does not meet the full cost of training offered by the training provider, then additional contributions from the employer/industry may be negotiated.

Where there is an additional cost charged by a training provider, it may be dependent on a variety of factors, including but not limited to the following:

- The way the training is delivered e.g. online, in the workplace, at the school, via workbooks, at the training providers premises
- The level of support provided by the training provider
- The frequency of workplace visits

As employers of SATs receive additional incentives from the federal Government when employing a SAT, the employer may wish to utilise a portion of this funding towards the final cost required by the training provider if it is in excess of the Government contribution.

**Contact Us**

For more information, contact Apprenticeships Info by telephone on 1800 210 210 or visit <http://training.qld.gov.au/training-organisations/user-choice/index.html>

Historical document