



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

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ABOUT Support for Australian Apprentices with disability

The Australian Government, in acknowledging the contribution people with disability make to their communities and workplaces, provides additional support to Australian Apprentices with disability to help them reach their full potential as skilled workers.

What support is available for Australian Apprentices with disability?

The Australian Government wishes to encourage employers to provide Australian Apprenticeships with associated skills-based training and employment to people with disability who are able to undertake open employment, given suitable support and training.

Australian Apprentices with disability and their employers may be eligible to receive additional assistance under the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program.

A range of assistance is available to support Australian Apprentices with disability, including Disabled Australian Apprentice Wage Support which is paid to employers, and assistance for tutorial, interpreter and mentor services for apprentices.

Assistance is also available through the Workplace Modifications Scheme which pays the cost of modifying workplaces or purchasing special equipment. Employers can access the scheme via JobAccess or through the Disability Employment Network, the Job Services Australia or Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

This assistance is intended to help the Australian Apprentice with disability, either directly, or indirectly through their employer, to reach their full potential as a skilled worker and to ensure that they are not excluded from participation in the Program.

What is Disabled Australian Apprentice Wage Support?

Disabled Australian Apprentice Wage Support (DAAWS) is an Australian Government incentive payable to an employer who employs an Australian Apprentice who satisfies the disability eligibility criteria in an Australian Apprenticeship.

This wage support is also available to an employer who employs an Australian Apprentice who becomes disabled during their apprenticeship or traineeship.

How much is paid?

An employer of an Australian Apprentice with disability may receive an incentive of either \$104.30 a week for a full-time apprentice, or a pro rata amount for a part-time apprentice.

The employer must be paying a suitable wage which must be at least \$104.30 per week or its part-time equivalent.

13 38 73

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How are tutorial, interpreter and mentor services provided?

Tutorial, interpreter and mentor services are available to Australian Apprentices who have been assessed as eligible for Disabled Australian Apprentice Wage Support and who require additional assistance with their off-the-job training.

This form of assistance is payable only to the Registered Training Organisation in respect of an Australian Apprentice eligible for DAAWS support where the Australian Apprentice is experiencing difficulty with the off-the-job training component of their Australian Apprenticeship because of that disability, the Occupational Assessment supports the provision of additional assistance and the RTO proposes specific additional assistance related to off-the-job training.

Payments for these services are made directly to the Registered Training Organisation providing or facilitating the service. Australian Government financial assistance available for these services is \$38.50 an hour up to a maximum of \$5,500 annually.



Case study Hunter New England Health— employer of apprentices with a disability

Daniel Majkic, apprentice plumber at John Hunter Hospital (left) has excelled in his chosen vocation with Hunter New England Health as part of the disability employment scheme.

Hunter New England Health has been a proactive employer of people with a disability for 15 years. The service has recruited, trained and provided long-term opportunities for more than 50 apprentices and trainees with a disability. Chief Executive of Hunter New England Health Terry Clout says the apprentices are valued highly within the organisation.

"We are committed to employment practices that are fair and equitable and we value the diversity of the individuals who work for Hunter New England Health. We not only provide opportunities for people with disabilities to gain skills development, training, and open employment within our organisation, but have engaged and retained valuable staff," Mr Clout says.

For more information

Contact your Australian Apprenticeships Centre, call the Australian Apprenticeships referral line on 13 38 73 or visit the Australian Apprenticeships website at www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au for more information.

Visit www.jobaccess.gov.au or call 1800 464 800 for more information about the Workplace Modifications Scheme.

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