



Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements and the Completing Apprenticeship Commencements wage subsidy

Questions and Answers

Updated: 28 September 2021

As part of the commitment to a skilled economy and the [Government's Economic Response to COVID-19](#) an additional \$2.7 billion has been invested to extend and expand the Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements wage subsidy - \$1.2 billion to uncap the program and extend the wage subsidy period to 12 months from the date of commencement, as announced on 9 March 2021, and \$1.5 billion to extend the commencement period for an additional six months from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022.

The Australian Government will ease the transition for all BAC eligible employers by providing transitional support for the second and third year of an Australian Apprenticeship through the Completing Apprenticeship Commencements (CAC) wage subsidy.

1. What is Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements?

[Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements](#) is a government wage subsidy to encourage employers of any size or industry, Australia-wide, to take on new apprentices and trainees.

This wage subsidy is in addition to the \$2.8 billion [Supporting Apprentices and Trainees](#) wage subsidy, which closed to new entrants on 31 March 2021.

2. How much will be available to employers?

Eligible employers and Group Training Organisations can apply for a wage subsidy of 50 per cent of the commencing or recommencing apprentice or trainee's gross wage paid for a 12-month period from the date of commencement, to a maximum of \$7,000 per quarter.

The final date for new entrants into the program is 31 March 2022. Payments will be made quarterly in arrears into the employer's nominated bank account. Final claims for payment must be lodged by 30 June 2023.

3. What is Completing Apprenticeship Commencements?

Eligible employers of a BAC supported apprentice or trainee will transition onto the time-limited Completing Apprenticeship Commencements (CAC) wage subsidy for the second and third year of their apprenticeship.

Under the CAC, eligible employers will receive a wage subsidy of ten per cent of wages paid to an eligible apprentice or trainee in the second year of their apprenticeship, to a maximum of \$1,500 per quarter per apprentice.

Eligible employers will also receive a wage subsidy of five per cent of wages paid to an eligible apprentice or trainee in the third year of their apprenticeship, to a maximum of \$750 per quarter per apprentice.

Your business or Group Training Organisation may be eligible if:

- you engaged an Australian Apprentice or trainee between 5 October 2020 and 31 March 2022; and
- this Australian Apprentice or trainee is undertaking their second or third year of a Certificate II or higher qualification and has a training contract that is formally approved by the state training authority.

Payments will be made quarterly in arrears into the employer's nominated bank account. Final claims for payment must be lodged by 30 June 2025.

4. Does the business size matter?

Employers of any size, or industry, Australia-wide who commence an Australian Apprentice between 5 October 2020 and 31 March 2022 may be eligible under this program.

5. Are Group Training Organisations eligible for the subsidy?

Yes. Group Training Organisations are eligible for the subsidy.

Group Training Organisations must pass on the Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements and Completing Apprenticeship Commencements payments to the host employer or may retain the payment where an Australian Apprentice or trainee is no longer hosted to a host employer.

6. Who is eligible?

Your business or Group Training Organisation may be eligible for the Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements and Completing Apprenticeship Commencements wage subsidies if:

- you engage an Australian Apprentice or trainee between 5 October 2020 and 31 March 2022; and
- this Australian Apprentice or trainee is undertaking a Certificate II or higher qualification and has a training contract that is formally approved by the state training authority.

Additional eligibility requirements will apply to existing workers.

7. What are the changes to eligibility for existing workers?

From 28 October 2020, an employer, or host employer (if using a Group Training Organisation), will be eligible for the subsidy for up to 30 existing worker commencements when:

- an existing worker transfers from a casual employment arrangement to either a part-time or full-time Australian Apprenticeship; or
- an existing worker transfers from a part-time employment arrangement to a full-time Australian Apprenticeship.

There will be no changes for commencements of existing workers in trade-based Australian Apprenticeships.

8. What happens if an existing worker who does not meet the revised eligibility criteria has already commenced?

As long as all other eligibility criteria are met, an Australian Apprentice who has an approved Training Contract, with a commencement date between 5 October and 27 October 2020, will be eligible to attract the subsidy for their employer. The revised eligibility will only apply to commencements from 28 October 2020.

9. When will Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements be available?

The following table explains when eligible employers will be able to submit a claim for the Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements payments in arrears:

For any wages paid in the following time periods	Date claim can be lodged	Final date to lodge claim
From 5 October 2020 to 31 December 2020	1 January 2021	30 June 2022
From 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2021	1 April 2021	
From 1 April 2021 to 30 June 2021	1 July 2021	
From 1 July 2021 to 30 September 2021	1 October 2021	
From 1 October 2021 to 31 December 2021	1 January 2022	
From 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022	1 April 2022	
From 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022	1 July 2022	30 June 2023
From 1 July 2022 to 30 September 2022	1 October 2022	
From 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2022	1 January 2023	
From 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023	1 April 2023	

10. When will the Completing Apprenticeship Commencements wage subsidy be available?

The following table explains when eligible employers will be able to submit a claim for the Completing Apprenticeship Commencements payments in arrears:

For any wages paid in the following time periods	Date claim can be lodged	Final date to lodge claim
From 5 October 2021 to 31 December 2021	1 January 2022	30 June 2022
From 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022	1 April 2022	
From 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022	1 July 2022	30 June 2023
From 1 July 2022 to 30 September 2022	1 October 2022	
From 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2022	1 January 2023	
From 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023	1 April 2023	
From 1 April 2023 to 30 June 2023	1 July 2023	
From 1 July 2023 to 30 September 2023	1 October 2023	30 June 2024
From 1 October 2023 to 31 December 2023	1 January 2024	
From 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024	1 April 2024	
From 1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024	1 July 2024	
From 1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024	1 October 2024	30 June 2025
From 1 October 2024 to 31 December 2024	1 January 2025	
From 1 January 2025 to 31 March 2025	1 April 2025	

11. How are payments made?

All program payments will be paid directly to the recipient's nominated bank account.

The Australian Government is focussed on supporting Australian businesses and reduce the reporting burden on employers. To receive a payment for the Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements and Completing Apprenticeship Commencements wage subsidies, eligible employers must be able to provide accurate and regular wage reporting through Single Touch Payroll, unless an exemption from the Australian Taxation Office has been granted. For further information about Single Touch Payroll, please visit the Australian Taxation Office website.

12. How do employers register and apply for the subsidy?

An eligible employer should advise of intent to claim Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements using the Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements registration form during sign up of a new Australian Apprentice. The form will be available from your [Australian Apprenticeship Support Network provider](#).

If you have already completed the Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements registration form, your apprentice will automatically roll over to the new Completing Apprenticeship Commencements wage subsidy if eligible.

13. Are employers eligible for the Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements and Completing Apprenticeship Commencements measures if they are receiving other Commonwealth subsidies?

No, an employer will not be eligible for the Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements or Completing Apprenticeship Commencements subsidies where the apprentice is receiving any other form of Australian Government wage subsidy e.g. Supporting Apprentices and Trainees, or the JobMaker Hiring Credit.

Where an employer is eligible for multiple subsidies, the employer will need to choose which payment best supports their circumstances.

14. Are employers also eligible for other payments under the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program?

Yes, employers and Group Training Organisations that receive Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements and the Completing Apprenticeship Commencements wage subsidies may be eligible for other incentives available under the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program, subject to eligibility criteria being met.

15. What about apprentices who commenced before 5 October 2020?

Apprentices who commenced before 5 October 2020 will not be eligible for Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements as the purpose of this subsidy is to drive growth in new commencements.

The Government does however provide a range of other incentives to employers and Australian Apprentices to support recruitment and encourage participation in the Australian Apprenticeships system.

Through the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program, eligible employers may attract financial incentives for the commencement and completion of an Australian Apprenticeship. The program also contains a range of targeted incentives to areas of national priority and skills needs and to support employers and Australian Apprentices in rural and regional Australia.

More information about the incentives is available at: www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au.

16. Is there a limit on how many Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements places an employer can have?

The only limits that apply relate to existing workers under Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements. Employers can receive a subsidy under Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements for any number of other apprentices or trainees, provided they meet the eligibility criteria. However,

your Australian Apprentice must commence or recommence between 5 October 2020 and 31 March 2022, with an approved Training Contract and you must register for the subsidy.

To be eligible for Completing Apprenticeship Commencements, the employer must have been eligible for and received Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements for the same Australian Apprenticeship.

17. Where can employers find further information?

For further information visit www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au.