

Priority Wage Subsidy

The Priority Wage Subsidy (PWS) aims to maintain strong Australian Apprenticeship commencement levels and improve retention and completion rates in priority occupations experiencing national skills shortage by helping employers offset the cost of taking on an Australian Apprentice (AA). Eligible employers who commence a new or existing AA in a priority occupation and qualification can claim a wage subsidy of up to 10% of gross wages paid for the first and second years of a Training Contract (to a maximum of \$1,500 per quarter) and 5% of gross wages paid for the third year (to a maximum of \$750 per quarter).

Priority occupations are set out on the [Australian Apprenticeships Priority List](#) (Priority List).

Am I eligible?

For an employer or Group Training Organisation (GTO) to be eligible for the PWS, the AA must:

- Have commenced or recommenced their Australian Apprenticeship between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2024; **or**
- Have recommenced their Australian Apprenticeship with their original employer between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2024, where the break in training was greater than six months; **and**
- Be undertaking a qualification at the Certificate III, Certificate IV, Diploma or Advanced Diploma level listed on *Appendix A – Australian Apprenticeships Priority List* on the date of commencement or recommencement; **and**
- Be undertaking an Australian Apprenticeship with an occupational outcome listed on *Appendix A – Australian Apprenticeships Priority List* at the date of commencement or recommencement

In addition to the above requirements, employers must not be in receipt of the Disability Australian Apprentice Wage Support (DAAWS) payment or any other form of Australian Government or equivalent assistance for the same Australian Apprenticeship.

The Training Contract must also be formally approved by the State Training Authority (STA). The Australian Apprentice's prior qualifications *may* affect eligibility for the PWS.

Payment rates, claim periods and effect dates

Payment rates			Claim period	Effect date
First year	Second year	Third year		
10% of wages paid (up to a max of \$1,500 per quarter)	10% of wages paid (up to a max of \$1,500 per quarter)	5% of wages paid (up to a max of \$750 per quarter)	3 months in arrears up to a maximum of 12 months (in each payment cycle)	3 months from commencement, and 3 months from each effect date thereafter

The effect date is the date the claim becomes payable. The PWS is claimed quarterly in arrears.

The first effect date is three months from commencement, as recorded on the Training Contract, and is payable provided there is a signed training plan in place. Effect dates thereafter are three calendar months from the date of the previous effect date.

The **time limit** for lodging a claim is **12 months from the effect date of each claim**.

How do I make a claim?

Employers must lodge their PWS claim using the [Apprenticeships Data Management System](#) (ADMS). When submitting a claim in the ADMS, employers are required to upload evidence of gross wages paid to the AA during the claim period. This evidence can be in the form of a payroll printout, time and wages sheet, payslip, or payroll summary, which must be able to confirm:

- The legal name or Australian Business Number (ABN) of the employer making the claim for the PSW; **and**
- The AA's name; **and**
- A date range aligning to the period claimed for in the claim; **and**
- The gross wage amount

In order to claim, employers must also:

- Register and use Single Touch Payroll (STP) for wage reporting to the Australian Tax Office (ATO) unless the ATO has granted an exemption
- Lodge claims in the ADMS, noting that a myGovID is required to authenticate the user during login
- Provide accurate wage evidence to support each claim lodged in the ADMS and submit claims within 12 months of the effect date

Find out more

To find out more about the PWS and your eligibility, contact **13 MEGT** or anpinfo@megt.com.au