

Employer assistance and incentives for hiring apprentices and trainees

To assist with the recovery from the impact of COVID-19, the Australian Government and the South Australian Government are providing support to all employers who engage an Australian Apprentice or Trainee.

The combination of employer assistance and subsidised course fees make a significant reduction in the costs of training your employees in the Certificate III in Arboriculture. Employers can gain wage assistance for new trainees through the “Boosting apprenticeship commencements” program or for keeping their existing trainees through the “Supporting Apprentices and Trainees” program.

Employers can also access incentives at commencement and completion of the traineeship under the “Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program”. Trainees may also apply for incentive payments under this program.

Boosting apprenticeship commencements

Your business may be eligible if you engage an Australian Apprentice or Trainee between 5 October 2020 and 30 September 2021, and your 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.

Benefits and conditions:

- Eligible employers will receive a wage subsidy of up to 50 per cent of the gross wage paid.
- The wage subsidy is available for a maximum of \$7,000 per quarter per eligible trainee.
- The subsidy is available for wages paid from 5 October 2020 to 30 September 2021.
- The subsidy is available to employers of any size, industry or geographic location.
- The subsidy is capped at 100,000 places.
- The subsidy is not available for any apprentice receiving any other form of Australian Government wage subsidy e.g. Supporting Apprentices and Trainees or JobKeeper.
- Payments will be made quarterly in arrears, with first claims for the subsidy available from 1 January 2021.
- Final claims for payment must be lodged by 31 December 2021.

Supporting apprentices and trainees

The Australian Government has expanded the Supporting Apprentices and Trainees wage subsidy, to include medium-sized businesses who had an eligible apprentice in place on 1 July 2020.

Benefits and conditions:

- Eligible employers will receive a wage subsidy of up to 50 per cent of the wages paid worth up to \$7,000 per quarter, per eligible apprentice or trainee, reimbursed in arrears.
- Claims from small businesses can continue to be submitted as normal. Claims from medium-sized businesses will open on 1 October 2020.
- Final claims for payment must be lodged by 30 June 2021.

Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program

This program remains in place until 1 July 2021.

Benefits and conditions:

- \$4,000 if the employer puts a new or existing employee under the age of 21 under a contract of training for AHC30816 Certificate III in Arboriculture.
- \$8,000 if the employer puts a new or existing employee over the age of 21 under a contract of training for AHC30816 Certificate III in Arboriculture.
- \$3,250 recommencement of a new or existing employee under a contract of training for AHC30816 Certificate III in Arboriculture.
- Additional amounts: Rural/Regional skills shortage (if the business is outside the Gawler - Adelaide - Noarlunga metropolitan area): \$1000. Mature worker over 45 years of age: \$750

Subsidised training for Certificate III in Arboriculture

treesystems is authorised to provide training, subsidised by the State Government, in AHC30816 Certificate III in Arboriculture. The subsidised fees treesystems charges for each specialisation are:

- Climbing specialisation: \$2,700
- Climbing & EWP specialisation: \$2,460
- Groundworker specialisation: \$2,340

The Skilling South Australia Equipped for Work initiative supports individuals and employers by reimbursing them for the costs of goods and services essential to starting an apprenticeship or traineeship. Funding is available through reimbursements of up to **\$1,000** made directly to an eligible apprentice and/or their employer, and pre-approval may be granted prior to the purchase of goods or services.

treesystems training is delivered through a series of week-long training blocks at Woodhouse Activity Centre, and through a combination of on-the-job training, workplace assessment and RPL. Training blocks might be:

- 10 x 1-week blocks for experienced employees
- 12 x 1-week blocks for new employees
- other attendance blocks can be negotiated

Further Information

Please note that assistance and incentives change from time to time. The figures quoted above are accurate as of October 2021.

Employer access to assistance and incentives is arranged through the Apprenticeships Support Network. In South Australia, treesystems recommends MAS National and MEGT as they have helped us to collate this information.

- MAS National Tony Gavros 0488 307 200
- MEGT Nick Morris 0447 100 727

MAS National and MEGT will also guide employers in setting up contracts of training.

Summary

The costs to the employer of training their employees are now very much reduced, due to the combination of employer assistance, training subsidy and treesystems' ability to deliver the training with reduced downtime.

If you would like further information, or if you would like to start an employee in the course, please contact Mike Ramsden at treesystems.

treesystems has a new course starting September 2021 and is now taking enrolments. It is an entry requirement for the courses that students have current first aid certificates.

We would like to thank to Nicole Turvey from the State Government and Tony Gavros from MAS National, Nick Morris from MEGT for helping us understand the incentives available to employers in the arboriculture industry.

Yours sincerely,



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