



Skilling Australians Fund

The Australian Government is committed to Australia's training system

The Australian Government has established an ongoing Skilling Australians Fund (the Fund), that will be managed through a new project-based National Partnership Agreement (the Agreement) with the state and territory governments.

An estimated \$1.5 billion will be available from the Commonwealth over the four years (from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2021), and with matched funding from the states and territories, will seek to support up to 300,000 more apprenticeships, traineeships, pre-apprenticeships, pre-traineeships, higher-apprenticeships, and other employment related training.

The number of apprentices and trainees has been in decline. By increasing apprenticeships and traineeships, the Fund will boost the number of people who choose and who succeed in this pathway. It will also support more Australians to get the skills they need for jobs in demand. More people in jobs will help grow our industries and keep the Australian economy strong.

Subject to the passing of legislation, the revenue for the Fund will be financed by the Government's skilled migration reforms that require employers who sponsor a foreign worker to pay a Nomination Training Contribution Charge (known as a levy) under certain visa types, including:

- Temporary Skill Shortage (TSS) visa
- Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) (subclass 186) visa
- Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS) (subclass 187) visa

The purpose of the levy is to require employers seeking to access skilled overseas workers to contribute to the skills development of Australians. Overall, employers and industry will have more opportunities to support the skilling of Australian workers, ensuring that businesses that benefit from employing skilled migrants support training for Australians. The Fund will also provide more opportunities to be an apprentice or trainee.

Targeted joint investment will help more Australians get the skills they need

The Government is committed to a skilled and productive Australia, through programs that lead to good employment outcomes for Vocational Education and Training (VET) students. The focus on apprenticeships and traineeships, the flagship of the VET sector, reflects their crucial role in fulfilling the needs of industries which rely on a skilled workforce to drive innovation and growth.

Under the new Agreement, each state and territory will have the opportunity to develop projects for consideration by the Commonwealth. Funding will be prioritised to projects from the states and territories which support apprenticeships and traineeships in the following key areas:

- occupations in demand
- occupations with a reliance on skilled migration pathways
- industries and sectors of future growth that include, but are not limited to, the following priorities:
 - tourism
 - hospitality
 - health, ageing, and community and social services
 - engineering
 - manufacturing
 - building and construction
 - agriculture
 - digital technologies
- trade apprenticeships
- rural and regional areas
- targeted cohorts
- industries and communities experiencing structural adjustment.

These projects will need to demonstrate engagement with, and support from, industry and employers. Industry is a key partner in ensuring that training delivers the skills industry needs and that skills spending is targeted to jobs in demand. Continued industry engagement in the VET sector and these projects will support ongoing employment outcomes for apprentices and trainees.

For further information

- Visit the Skilling Australians Fund website at <https://education.gov.au/skilling-australians-fund>
- Email skillingaustralians@education.gov.au