

Payments for Australian Apprentices



Background

In an effort to address national skills needs and encourage people to enter Australian Apprenticeships, the Australian Government has put in place arrangements that give Australian Apprentices access to the following fortnightly payments delivered by Centrelink:

- Youth Allowance
- Austudy
- ABSTUDY.

Australian Apprenticeships combine practical work with structured training to provide a nationally recognised qualification that leads to skilled employment. Australian Apprenticeships are also commonly known as **apprenticeships** and **traineeships**.

Go to www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au for more information.

Who can apply?

You can apply for one of the fortnightly payments if you are:

- a full-time Australian Apprentice, **and**
- an Australian resident.

As Australian Apprentices can only claim **one** of the payments, you should use the following guide to determine which payment reflects your situation.

- If you're an Australian Apprentice aged between 16 and 24, you should apply for Youth Allowance.
- If you're an Australian Apprentice aged 25 and over, you should apply for Austudy.
- If you're an Australian Apprentice of any age and you are an Indigenous Australian, you should apply for ABSTUDY.

Where do I apply?

You can call **13 3633**, or apply online at www.centrelink.gov.au. Just follow the online services links. Make sure that you have the following information nearby to ensure that the application process takes as little time as possible:

- your gross fortnightly earnings
- your bank account number
- your bank branch number, **and**
- your employer's Australian Business Number.

When you make a claim you will need to prove your identity to Centrelink. Please provide original documents (not photocopies) from Centrelink's approved list—see the 'Proving your identity to Centrelink' form.

How will Centrelink work out if I'm eligible for the payment?

This depends on a number of things, such as:

- your personal income and assets, **and** (where applicable)
- your parents' or partner's income and assets.

Because each person's circumstances are unique, call Centrelink on **13 3633** for more information.

Youth Disability Supplement

You may qualify for Youth Disability Supplement if you are under 21 years of age and assessed as having a partial capacity to work.

www.centrelink.gov.au



Australian Government



If I start receiving a payment, will I need to keep in touch with Centrelink on a regular basis?

To ensure that you are receiving the correct amount of payment, you will need to contact Centrelink every two weeks to update your employment income details. You must do this in order to receive your payment. You can contact Centrelink:

- over the phone—call Centrelink's Report Employment Income line on **13 3276**, available from 6.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m., Monday to Friday (excluding national public holidays). The entire process takes less than five minutes and because the line is fully automated, there's no waiting in any phone queues.
- online—just go to www.centrelink.gov.au and follow the online services links. You can use this service between 6.15 a.m. and 10.00 p.m., Monday to Friday and on Saturday between 8.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m.

Remember, you need to contact Centrelink before 5.00 p.m. on the day you are due to report or your payment will be delayed.

Are Centrelink payments taxable?

Yes. However, to work out exactly how individual payments could affect your tax, you should speak to the Tax Office. Alternatively, you can talk to your accountant or registered tax agent.

How to find out more

Youth and Student Services	13 2490
Australian Apprentices (apprentices or trainees)	13 3633
ABSTUDY	13 2317
Disabilities, Sickness and Carers	13 2717
To speak to Centrelink in languages other than English	13 1202
Customer Relations (for complaints, compliments and suggestions)	Freecall™ 1800 050 004
Australian Government Services Fraud Tip-off Line	13 1524

TTY* payment enquiries Freecall™ 1800 810 586

*TTY is only for people who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment. A TTY phone is required to use this service

To make an appointment 13 1021

Go to our website at www.centrelink.gov.au

Check the 'we speak your language' link on Centrelink's website for information in languages other than English.

Important: Calls to '13' numbers from a standard telephone service can be made from anywhere within Australia for not more than the cost of a local call (call charges may vary depending upon the telephone service provider). Calls to '1800' numbers are free of charge. Calls from public and mobile telephones may be charged at a higher rate.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is intended only as a guide to payments available.

What are your responsibilities?

- It is your responsibility to decide if you wish to apply for a payment and to make the application, having regard to your particular circumstances.
- The information is accurate as at July 2006, but may of course change. If you use this publication after that date, please check with Centrelink that the details are up to date.

From what date are benefits payable?

Most government payments are paid from, or after, the date on which the application is made. So the sooner you lodge the application the quicker you may be paid.

What is the position if you deal with a third party?

You may deal with a third party who is not a member of Centrelink's staff. If you do so, please remember that Centrelink has not authorised any third parties to provide information or advice to you about payments.