



ACCELERATED AUSTRALIAN APPRENTICESHIPS INITIATIVE

Quick reference guide for applicants

The Accelerated Australian Apprenticeships (AAA) grants program is an Australian Government initiative that supports industry's workforce development needs by influencing the quality of Australian Apprenticeships at a national level. The AAA program enables eligible ISCs, peak industry bodies, large employers and businesses to undertake or participate in large-scale innovative projects that will support a shift to competency-based progression and completions in vocational education and training, with a focus on Australian Apprenticeships. Funding is expected to support major multi-jurisdictional and sector-wide partnerships.

Competency-based progression and completions in Australian Apprenticeships have the potential to provide more attractive apprenticeship pathways, and will assist with increasing the supply of skilled workers demanded by employers and industry, while maintaining the quality of training. Competency-based progression enables apprenticeship completions, which are based on the attainment of competency rather than on the period of time served in an apprenticeship.

The AAA grants program forms part of Australian Government Skills Connect and is designed to link industry to funding for whole-of-workforce planning and development.

Australian Apprenticeships encompass all apprenticeships and traineeships. They combine time at work with training and can be full-time, part-time or school-based.

Available funding

Approximately \$53 million is available under the initiative from 2011-12 to 2015-16.

Partnerships with industry

The AAA program involves partnerships between the Australian Government and industry. Projects under this initiative are expected to be led by Industry Skills Councils (ISCs), peak industry bodies and/or enterprises working in partnership with employers, Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), unions and other stakeholders. Participating employers will contribute to the project cost.

The Australian Government will consider projects more favourably which involve a co-contribution by participating employers, consistent with the table below:

Size of employer's full-time equivalent workforce	Australian Government contribution (%)	Participating organisation contribution (%)
1 – 99 (small)	67	33
100 – 199 (medium)	50	50
200 and above (large)	34	66

Preference when assessing Projects in terms of value for money will be given to applications which include financial contributions at this level.

Eligibility

Organisations eligible to apply for funding include:

- Industry Skills Councils (ISCs), peak industry bodies or enterprises, in partnership with employers, Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), unions and other stakeholders.
- Employers, either a very large employer with a significant workforce of Australian Apprentices, or a group of employers in an industry partnership.

Who can participate

Projects are expected to support competency-based progression and completions with priority given to Australian Apprenticeships at Certificate III or IV level. Aims and ideas for projects can be varied and will depend on each individual project.

Priority for funding may be given to certain industries, sectors or regions in response to changing needs of the economy.

Who can receive training

This is dependent on the project type, but generally Australian Apprentices in industries with a current or emerging skills need.

How to apply

Applications are submitted to the Australian Government using the application form available from the Accelerated Australian Apprenticeships website at:

<http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/program/accelerated-australian-apprenticeships-initiative>

Applications can be submitted at any time until all funding available for the financial year has been allocated.

An application for funding must meet eligibility requirements and include comprehensive details about the proposal, address the selection criteria and include a detailed budget. Value for money is one of the criteria that will be used to evaluate applications.

All funded proposals will be required to demonstrate sustainability beyond the end-date of the initiative, thus contributing to the embedding of competency-based progression, which will further guide long-term reform of the Australian Apprenticeships system.

To find out more

For details on how to apply, including the application form, program guidelines and further information, please visit the Accelerated Australian Apprenticeships website at:

<http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/program/accelerated-australian-apprenticeships-initiative> - or send an email to: AcceleratedAustralianApprenticeships@innovation.gov.au

If you have a whole-of-workforce proposal or are interested in more than one program further information can be found at the Australian Government Skills Connect website at:

www.skillsconnect.gov.au Please contact Australian Government Skills Connect by email to: skillsconnect@innovation.gov.au or phone 13 38 73 between 8.00 am to 6.00 pm Monday to Friday.