

# NSW Fee-Free Apprenticeships

**VET**  
Vocational Education & Training



## A \$285 million initiative will make apprenticeship training fee-free to help address skills shortages in NSW.

The NSW Government is investing an additional **\$285 million** over six years to fund the qualification fees for 100,000 new apprentices from 1 July 2018

Removing fees will make it easier for employers to hire apprentices and encourage more people to take up apprenticeships.

### The NSW Government's fee-free apprenticeship initiative will:

- **save employers** from having to pay up to \$2,000 for training costs per apprentice
- **remove upfront fees** for students (later reimbursed by employers)
- **improve living costs for apprentices** by reducing potential debt.

The initiative will ensure NSW has a strong pipeline of skilled workers for the local job market, enabling NSW businesses to adapt more readily to the changing economic environment and respond to future jobs needs.



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## How fee-free apprenticeships work

The NSW Department of Industry will pay the student fee on behalf of any apprentice who commences their apprenticeship training on or after **1 July 2018**. The fee will be paid directly to the approved Smart and Skilled training provider.

The student and their employer will not be required to pay the fee.

## Eligibility

Access to fee-free training is available to NSW apprentices, including school-based apprentices, whose training:

- is funded under the NSW Government's Smart and Skilled program
- commenced on or after 1 July 2018.

Apprentices that cross NSW borders to undertake training funded by the NSW Government are also eligible.

## Smart and Skilled

Smart and Skilled is a NSW Government program that offers subsidised training for courses on the NSW Skills List. All NSW apprenticeship courses fall under the program.

Smart and Skilled supports the skills development of the NSW workforce to meet the state's future demand for jobs. Workers and employers in NSW have a wide range of government-subsidised courses and approved training providers to choose from.

The Smart and Skilled program offers a wide range of approved training providers —including TAFE NSW, adult and community education colleges and private training providers—to meet the training needs of employees.

All apprenticeship qualifications are subsidised when delivered by an approved Smart and Skilled provider, and are fully subsidised for eligible apprentices under the fee-free apprenticeship initiative.