



Skilling Australians Fund

The Australian Government is committed to Australia's training system

The Australian Government values the significant contribution the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector makes to Australia's future productivity, jobs and growth. The Skilling Australians Fund (the Fund) is an important part of the Government's commitment to the sector, growing the number of apprenticeships and traineeships and working in partnership with our colleagues in state and territory governments (the states).

In the 2017–18 Budget, the Government established the ongoing Skilling Australians Fund (the Fund) to focus governments' efforts on apprenticeships and traineeships. In the 2018–19 Budget, the Government has strengthened its commitment to the Fund by guaranteeing a level of funding to the states in addition to the revenue collected through the Skilling Australians Fund levy.

The Fund will boost the number of people who choose and succeed in an apprenticeship pathway and employers will gain the skilled workers they need to drive innovation and growth. The Australian Government has made funding available in the first five years of the program, from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2022. Together with matched funding from the states, the Fund will seek to support a significant number of new apprenticeships and other employment-related training.

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 VET students. The focus on apprenticeships and traineeships, the flagship of the VET sector, reflects their crucial role in fulfilling the needs of industries. The Government recognises that they are a national training priority area and this investment is in addition to the Government's existing investments in schools and higher education.

The Fund is managed through a new project-based National Partnership Agreement (the Agreement) with the states that commenced on 1 July 2018 and runs for four years. The Government will provide funding to drive outcomes through the Agreement. States will be required to match this funding. New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory have all signed the Agreement. Their schedules and implementation plans can be viewed at the [Council of Federal Financial Relations website](#).

Under the Agreement, each state has the opportunity to develop projects for consideration by the Government. 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.

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.

Skilling Australians Fund Levy

The revenue for the Fund will be partially 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) (subclass 482) 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.

For further information

For updates continue to visit the [Skilling Australians Fund website](#) or email skillingaustralians@education.gov.au.