



TED O'BRIEN MP

Federal Member for Fairfax

Q&A on Support for Businesses

Today the Prime Minister announced a **\$2 billion skills package** consisting of:

- **\$1 billion JobTrainer Fund** – \$500m from the Commonwealth matched by States & Territories to help job seekers access training for the skills needed to secure jobs;
- **\$1.5 billion expansion of the Supporting Apprentices and Trainees Wage subsidy** to extend the scheme (i) by six months to March 2021 and (ii) to businesses with up to 200 employees.

Here are some of the questions my office is receiving:

How long will the JobTrainer Fund operate for?

From September 2020 to 30 June 2021.

What training will be available?

Nationally accredited qualifications and skill sets in areas of need, based on a list agreed with the National Skills Commission. Both short courses and full qualifications will be covered.

What's the maximum amount individuals will need to pay for training covered by the fund?

The details are still to be worked out with the States & Territories, however it is expected that courses will be fee-free or have nominal fees due to Government assistance. If students are unable to complete their training, they will not be required to repay any costs.

How much is the Apprentice and Trainees Wage subsidy?

The subsidy covers 50% of wages paid to apprentices and trainees, up to \$7,000 per quarter.

Who is eligible for the subsidy?

With effect from 1 July 2020 small and medium-sized businesses with 199 or fewer employees that also had apprentices in place on 1 July 2020 are eligible.

What has been the take-up of the Supporting Apprentices and Trainees wage subsidy to date?

From 2 April to 9 July, the subsidy was paid to support 81,212 apprentices and trainees, assisting 46,573 businesses, resulting in a total of \$365.5 million in payments. It is expected that the expansion of the scheme will support an additional 20,000 businesses or 63,000 apprentices.

Does this new measure only apply to those not eligible for JobKeeper?

Correct. Only businesses that have ceased receiving JobKeeper can apply so long as they meet the criteria.

Where can I find out more information?

Further information will be made available [here](#) in the coming weeks as the details are finalised with States & Territories.

16 July 2020