



FACT SHEET

Fee-free training for displaced apprentices and trainees

About the program

The Department of Training and Workforce Development (the Department) will fund TAFE and contracted private registered training organisations (RTO) to continue the off the job training for apprentices and trainees where their training contract was terminated, cancelled or suspended between 1 March and 31 December 2020.

Eligible apprentices and trainees will be able to access up to **six (6) months fee-free** off the job training, as from 1 July 2020.

Eligible apprentices and trainees

Apprentices and trainees are eligible to access this fee-free training where:

- their training contract was terminated, cancelled or suspended between 1 March and 31 December 2020; and
- their apprenticeship or traineeship is recorded on the WA Apprenticeship Management System (WAAMS) as eligible to be publicly funded.

The Apprenticeship Office will send written notification to apprentices and trainees where their training contract was terminated, cancelled or suspended since 1 March 2020. The notification includes whether the training contract is eligible for public funding, contract status and relevant contract dates. This information can be compared to the eligibility criteria above to determine an apprentice or trainee's eligibility for fee-free training under the Displaced Apprentices and Trainees Initiative.

Eligible training period

Apprentices and trainees terminated, cancelled or suspended between 1 March 2020 and 30 June 2020 are eligible for fee-free off the job training for units:

- commenced on or after 1 July 2020; and
- completed by 31 December 2020.

Students will not be eligible for retrospective course or resource fee payments to cover off the job training costs incurred from 1 March to 30 June 2020.

Apprentices and trainees terminated, cancelled or suspended between 1 July and 31 December 2020 will be eligible for six (6) months fee-free off the job training for units:

- commencing on or after the relevant 'termination/cancellation approval date' or 'suspension effective date' recorded on WAAMS; and
- completed within six (6) months of the relevant termination/cancellation/suspension date.

The eligible fee-free training period continues to apply, but does not recommence, where:

- a terminated or cancelled apprentice/trainee is employed by a new employer or is re-employed by the original employer; or
- a suspended apprentice/trainee recommences with their current employer.

Eligible training providers

TAFE colleges and private RTOs currently contracted by the Department to deliver apprenticeships and traineeships will be funded to deliver this fee-free training.

Apprentices and trainees undertaking training with a private RTO that is **not** contracted by the Department must approach and be accepted by a TAFE college or a Department-contracted private RTO to continue their training.

The Department will separately advise TAFE colleges and contracted private RTOs on processes for claiming fee reimbursement and reporting requirements.

Amount of training

For **apprentices**, the original training plan should be used as a guide to the amount of training that can be commenced and completed within the eligible training period. Importantly, the training should not result in the apprentice being significantly in front of the schedule set out in the training plan.

Trainees may undertake training during the eligible training period at a schedule suitable to the TAFE/ private RTO and the student. This may be at a faster pace than set out in the original training plan, and in some instances may take the student through to completion of the qualification.

The Out of Contract Register

The Department's free *Out of Contract Register* is available to help apprentices and trainees who have been stood down to find a new employer. It offers employers a quick search tool to find apprentices and trainees who are keen to continue to develop their skills.

The *Out of Contract Register* is regularly updated and available on the Jobs and Skills WA website at jobsandskills.wa.gov.au/register.

Further information

If you require information regarding the status of an apprentice or trainee, please call the Apprenticeship Office Helpline on 13 19 54.

For funding or reporting enquiries please email training.markets@dtwd.wa.gov.au.