The Australian Government and the NSW Government offer a range of schemes to support Australian Apprentices.

All these schemes have different conditions and requirements. Contacts are provided to let you find out whether you are eligible and how to apply.

- The information provided here is a brief summary only and is correct as at January 2015.

**Living Away From Home Allowance (LAFHA)**
If an apprentice had to move away from the parental/guardian home to commence or remain in their apprenticeship or is homeless they might be able to get LAFHA. First year apprentices may be eligible for up to twelve months of LAFHA at $77.17 per week. The second year rate is $38.59 pw for a further twelve months and the third year rate is $25 pw. For more information contact your Australian Apprenticeship Centre on 13 38 73 or visit [http://www.training.nsw.gov.au/individuals/apprenticeships/traineeships/self_help/lafha.html](http://www.training.nsw.gov.au/individuals/apprenticeships/traineeships/self_help/lafha.html)

**Support for Adult Australian Apprentices Payment**
From 1 January 2010, Australian Apprentices who are aged 25 or over when they commence their Australian Apprenticeship at a Certificate III or IV level in a trade experiencing a skills shortage may be eligible to attract Support for Adult Australian Apprentices payments for either themselves or their employer. Australian Apprentices who commenced prior to 1 January 2010 and were eligible for Support for Mid-Career Apprentices payments in 2009 may be eligible to attract Support for Adult Australian Apprentices payments for either themselves or their employer if they are still in their first or second year of the Australian Apprenticeship on 1 January 2010. Information 13 38 73 [http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/publication/support-adult-australian-apprentices-initiative](http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/publication/support-adult-australian-apprentices-initiative)

**RTA Rebate**
A vehicle registration rebate of $100 is available to first and second year apprentices. The rebate can only be claimed after registration fees have been paid and only one rebate may be claimed per financial year. For more information contact RTA motor registry office or [http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/registration/fees/index.html](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/registration/fees/index.html)

**Travel & Accommodation Assistance Scheme**
For apprentices who travel more than 120km return to attend training, $28 per day for accommodation and 12c per kilometre. Contact State Training Centres 13 28 11 or visit [https://www.training.nsw.gov.au/individuals/financial_assistance/index.html](https://www.training.nsw.gov.au/individuals/financial_assistance/index.html)

**NSW Country Apprentice Scholarships**
This Scholarship offers financial assistance to eligible country NSW apprentices to support their apprenticeship training. At least 10 Scholarships are awarded each year. At least two of these are awarded to apprentices of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background. Funding available is $5,000 for each year the apprentice is completing training to a maximum of $15,000. Nominations close 30th April each calendar year. [https://www.training.nsw.gov.au/individuals/apprenticeships/traineeships/financial_help/nsw_country_scholarships.html#What_scholarship_funding_is_available](https://www.training.nsw.gov.au/individuals/apprenticeships/traineeships/financial_help/nsw_country_scholarships.html#What_scholarship_funding_is_available)

**Continuing Apprentices Placement Service**
CAPS is a NSW Government service that helps apprentices and trainees (in *skills shortage occupations*) who have lost their jobs because of the economic downturn to find an employer and complete their apprenticeship or traineeship. Unemployed apprentices and trainees who are completing a certificate in a skills shortage occupation may also be entitled to financial assistance up to a maximum of $2500 to relocate to or from a regional area to continue their apprenticeship or traineeship. [https://www.training.nsw.gov.au/programs_services/funded_other/caps/index.html](https://www.training.nsw.gov.au/programs_services/funded_other/caps/index.html)

**Travel Concessions**

**Youth Allowance, AUSTUDY, ABSTUDY**
Even though you are in full-time employment Centrelink has special rates for apprentices. For example a single 18 years old living away from home may be eligible for up to $355.40 per fortnight. More information contact Centrelink 13 63 33 or visit [http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/subjects/payments-for-students-and-trainees](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/subjects/payments-for-students-and-trainees)

**Trade Support Loans**
These loans aim to support Australian Apprentices with everyday costs while they complete their apprenticeship. From July 2014 (subject to passage of legislation), Australian Apprentices will have access to loans totalling up to $20,000 over four years. These loans will be paid monthly, with most of the money available in the early years of an apprenticeship.


*Skills Shortage:*

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Updated 14/1/15
From the Counselling & Careers Service
TAFE NSW Illawarra Institute

We hope that this information is useful for you. Every effort has been made to be accurate. As the conditions for eligibility are varied and complex we have not attempted to provide much detail. Our intention is to encourage you to make contact with those services that administer the schemes and ask them directly about your eligibility.

If you have trouble contacting any of these providers or have other questions you are invited to contact a Careers & Counselling Service or make an enquiry on the following link.

ILLAcareersandcounselling@tafensw.edu.au

Dapto..............................................4221 8926
Shellharbour....................................4295 2234
Wollongong....................................4229 0535
Wollongong West............................4222 2855
Yallah............................................4262 9913

Bega.................................................6492 9734
Ulladulla ........................................4454 9200
Moruya...........................................4474 1800
Nowra..........................................4421 9886

Cooma ..............................................6452 0799
Goulburn .......................................4823 1864
Moss Vale........................................4868 0162
Queanbeyan/Yass............................6299 1377

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