

TRAINING/SKILLS



As you'd be aware, the Federal Government has released the Supporting Apprentices and Trainees program providing a wage subsidy to small businesses to retain existing apprentices and trainees.

Through the scheme employers receive up to \$7,000 per quarter for each eligible apprentice or trainee. At the same time, the Job-Keeper Payment provides businesses with a downturn of 30 per cent or more with \$1,500 per fortnight per employee for up to 6 months, and the Cash Flow Boost investment provides tax-free payments to eligible small and medium-sized businesses with turnover under \$50 million.

The Tasmanian Government is equally committed to supporting displaced workers. We have committed an additional \$6.3 million to our Rapid Response program which provides \$3,000 for individuals who have lost their job to help them with career advice and undertake training.

It is important to point out that funding for retraining is very flexible in that it does not limit or tie individuals to a specific training provider (such as TAFE), and can cover the purchase of learning materials or new work equipment such as safety gear.

As part of the program we have launched the Rapid Skills Matching stream to help displaced employers and workers fill immediate job needs. Through a local labour hire and recruitment businesses we are helping prepare and match job ready workers directly with industries and businesses with job vacancies.

In addition, later next week we will be launching an Employer Support stream targeting those businesses who need to immediately upskill current employees during this period.

To support registered training organisations (RTOs) we are also adjusting skills funding programs and renegotiating funding agreements to ensure training can continue and support their business in as flexible a way as possible. By working closely with training providers we are able to develop continuity of training transition plans for learners where RTOs have hibernated or delivery of work placements is no longer possible.