



FACT SHEET

Eligibility for the AUKUS Defence Industry Incentive

The AUKUS Defence Industry Incentive (Defence industry Incentive) provides financial assistance to Western Australian businesses undertaking work in the defence industry in Western Australia, who enter into a training contract with an eligible apprentice, on or after 1 July 2025.

The Defence Industry Incentive is capped at 435 places, with places allocated on a demand driven basis. Eligible employers may receive up to \$20,000 per apprentice over three milestone payment points.

The Defence Incentive is available in addition to the Jobs and Skills WA Employer Incentive (the Employer Incentive). Information about the Employer Incentive can be found on the [Jobs and Skills WA website](#).

Accessing the Incentive

Employers do not need to apply for the AUKUS Defence Industry Incentive. When a training contract is registered, employers will receive an automated notification if they have been assessed as eligible to receive the Defence Industry Incentive, through the Western Australian Apprenticeship Management System (WAAMS) online client portal.

Information about the Defence Industry Incentive and milestone payments to be made to each employer, is also available through WAAMS and the AUKUS Defence Industry Incentive - Payments fact sheet.

Training contract information

Apprentice Connect Australia Providers (ACAPs) work with an employer and the apprentice to establish the apprenticeship. Once the training contract is signed, the ACAP lodges it with the Department of Training and Workforce Development's (the Department) Apprenticeship Office for registration.

The information in the training contract is uploaded to WAAMS and is used to assess employer eligibility and to calculate incentive payments. It is therefore important that the information provided in the training contract is accurate.

The Department also undertakes additional checks at each milestone payment point before employers are able to claim payments. Detailed information about these checks can be found in the AUKUS Defence Industry Incentive – Terms and Conditions.

Eligibility criteria

Employers (including Group Training Organisations) who **are eligible** to access the Defence Industry Incentive are employers who:

- have an active training contract registered with the Apprenticeship Office which commenced on or after 1 July 2025; and

- employ an apprentice who lives and works in Western Australia (including the Indian Ocean Territories); and
- have been designated by Defence West as one of WA's approved defence employers; and
- employ apprentices enrolled into one of the following four approved qualifications:
 - MEM31922 Certificate III in Engineering – Fabrication Trade;
 - MEM30219 Certificate III in Engineering – Mechanical Trade;
 - UEE30820 Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician; and
 - MEM31219 Certificate III in Engineering – Industrial Electrician.

Employers who are eligible for the Jobs and Skills WA Employer Incentive are eligible for the Defence Industry Incentive.

Employers (including Group Training Organisations) who **are not eligible** to access the Defence Industry Incentive are employers who:

- have not been designated by Defence West as one of WA's approved defence employers and/or supply chain employers; and
- are employers of apprentices who live and work outside of Western Australia.

Employers who are eligible to receive the Jobs and Skills WA Adult Apprentice Employer Incentive, are not eligible to receive the Defence Industry Incentive for the same training contract.

Part time apprentices

Eligible employers of part-time apprentices are entitled to the same total incentive payment as for full-time apprentices, to be paid over the extended part-time nominal term of the training contract.

School-based apprentices (SBAs)

Employers of school-based apprentices (SBAs) are eligible for the Defence Industry Incentive. Please note that students may undertake more than one SBA however, second and subsequent SBAs will not attract Defence Industry Incentive payments.

Group Training Organisations (GTOs)

Group Training Organisations (GTOs) may be eligible to claim the Defence Industry Incentive however, they are required to pass incentive payments on in full to the host employer.

The host employer must be an approved defence employer (see the Defence Industry Incentive – Terms and Conditions for more detail).

Further information

T: 13 19 54 (option 2)

E: employerincentive@dtwd.wa.gov.au