

Productivity Places Program

Initiative

The Productivity Places Program (Phase III) is part of the Australian Government's *Skilling Australia for the Future* initiative. In Western Australia, there are up to 75,500 places available from 1 January 2009 to 30 June 2012 for job seekers and existing workers.

Qualifications

The Department of Training and Workforce Development offers a range of industry priority qualifications from certificate II to advanced diploma under the Productivity Places Program (PPP) that are delivered through an apprenticeship, traineeship or institutional training pathway.

Registered training organisation eligibility

Registered training organisations (RTO) seeking to apply to deliver the advertised Productivity Places Program qualifications, must have the appropriate qualifications within their scope of registration and be recognised to deliver training in Western Australia by the Training Accreditation Council.

Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in the Productivity Places Program individuals must be:

- aged 15 years or over; and
- Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia; or
- humanitarian refugees.

The Productivity Places Program is divided into the following sub programs:

Job seeker program — intended for unemployed people seeking or intending to seek paid employment or self employment after completing the qualification.

Existing worker program — provides training to people who are actively employed and able to use the training provided to increase their productivity in the workplace.

Fees

Participants will be required to pay fees and charges as prescribed in the Department of Training and Workforce Development's vocational education and training fees and charges policy.

To be eligible for a course fee exemption, a person must be identified as unemployed by holding either a:

- Centrelink Health Care Card — Newstart Allowance (NS);
- Centrelink Health Care Card — Youth Allowance (YA); or
- job seeker identification number issued through Centrelink or a Job Services Australia provider.

Proof of eligibility for the course fee exemption must be shown at the time of enrolment.



Enrolment

Course fee exemption only applies to a single qualification for a period of not more than 12 months. Individuals may also be charged a resource fee by the RTO.

For further information on the Department of Training and Workforce Development's vocational education and training fees and charges policy, visit trainingwa.wa.gov.au and search for *VET Fees and Charges in 2011*.

Funding arrangements

The Department has determined the price paid for each qualification, taking into account the cost of delivery in regional Western Australia. Private training providers reporting Productivity Places Program training activity to the Department through the online Resource Allocation Program for Training (RAPT) system will be funded at the advertised rates.

The Department will reimburse RTOs the applicable course fees for any commenced or completed units reported by the RTO through the online RAPT system, for fee free individuals.

A similar arrangement will apply when reimbursing the RTO for the difference in course fees for units achieved through RPL for non-concession and concession individuals.

Apprenticeships and traineeships

Details on the full range of publicly funded qualifications available through apprenticeship and traineeship employment based pathways can be viewed on the payments table located at stars.det.wa.edu.au/paymenttable.

The existing worker higher level traineeship program (EWHLT), which commenced in July 2008, will continue under the current program arrangements. Traineeships funded through this program are identified on the payments table by an asterisk (*). The EWHLT program relates to eligible certificate IV and above traineeships.

Further information is available from

Funding enquiries:

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