

Supporting Apprentices and Trainees Initiative (SATI) wage subsidy

FAQs

The Australian Government is supporting small business to retain their apprentices and trainees through the *Supporting Apprentices and Trainees Initiative (SATI)*.

Q. What is the Supporting Apprentices and Trainees Initiative (SATI)?

This subsidy allows for eligible small business employers and host employers to apply for a reimbursement of 50% of the wages paid to eligible apprentices for the nine months from 1 January 2020 to 30 September 2020. A maximum of \$7,000 can be reimbursed per quarter, per eligible apprentice. Where a small business is not able to retain an apprentice, the subsidy will be available to a new employer.

Q. What businesses are eligible to access this wage subsidy?

A business may be eligible if they had fewer than 20 employees on 1 March 2020 and employed, or hosted, one or more eligible apprentices on this date. The business will remain eligible for the wage subsidy provided they continue to employ or host the same apprentice.

Q. What does 'eligible apprentice' mean?

An eligible apprentice is an individual employed in an Australian Apprenticeship at the Certificate II level or above, with a Training Contract formally approved by the state training authority in place and who was employed or hosted by an eligible business on 1 March 2020.

When can I register for the subsidy?

Employers can register from 2 April 2020. Final claims for payment must be lodged by 31 December 2020.

Q. I am a direct employer - how do I apply for this subsidy?

You will need to apply to your local [Apprenticeship Support Network](#). Once approved, you can seek reimbursement by completing a *Supporting Apprentices and Trainees Claim Form*.

Reimbursements are for a three-month period and are paid in arrears. The first claim will be for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2020.

Q. I am a host employer – how do I apply for this subsidy?

Your Group Training Organisation (GTO), as the employer, will apply for the wage subsidy.

The GTO will receive the reimbursement and must pass this on to you, the eligible host. Your first reimbursement will be equal to half of the wages paid by the GTO to the apprentice (not half of what you paid to the GTO) between 1 January and 31 March 2020.

You will remain eligible for the reimbursement if you continue to host the same apprentice.

Q. I have already received, or am receiving, the *Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy* for my apprentice(s). Am I still eligible for this subsidy?

No. Employers are not eligible if they have received or are in receipt of the *Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy* or equivalent Australian Government wage subsidy for the same apprentice.

Q. I have already terminated an eligible apprentice. Can I access this subsidy if I re-employ them or take on a new apprentice?

No. If an employer terminates an eligible apprentice, they will no longer be able to access the wage subsidy if they re-hire that apprentice or re-engage a different eligible apprentice.

Q. My apprentice was on a suspension on 1 March 2020 – do they still count as an eligible apprentice?

No. Apprentices are not eligible if they were on a suspension on 1 March 2020.

Q. I have suspended my apprentice after 1 March 2020. Am I still eligible for this subsidy?

If your business suspends an eligible apprentice after 1 March 2020 for a period of less than six months, you will be able to access the wage subsidy when the apprentice returns to you. If the suspension lasts for longer than six months, the wage subsidy will no longer be available.

Q. I have employed, or will be employing, a new apprentice after 1 March 2020 - am I eligible for this subsidy?

The answer to this question varies depending on the situation. The important thing to remember is that wages are only eligible for the subsidy if the apprentice was employed or hosted by a small business on 1 March 2020. It is also important to remember that if an employer has already terminated an eligible apprentice, they will no longer be able to access the wage subsidy.

Those who take on a new apprentice as a host employer

If you take on an eligible apprentice who was let go by their previous host employer, but remains employed by the same GTO, you can access the subsidy.

If you take on an eligible apprentice who was previously employed directly by a small business, but has been subsequently employed by a GTO, the GTO can choose to keep the reimbursement or pass on all, or some of it, to you as a host employer.

Those who employ a new apprentice directly

If you re-engage (employ) an eligible apprentice who was let go by their previous employer, you can access the subsidy for that apprentice from the time they are employed to 30 September 2020.

Q. I run a small business hosting multiple apprentices on 1 March 2020, but I cannot retain all the apprentices. Will my business be eligible for the subsidy for the apprentices we can keep on?

Yes. A small business will be eligible to attract this subsidy for any apprentice that is retained (subject to meeting the eligibility criteria). This is regardless of whether other apprentices hosted by the small business have been retained or not.

Q. I run a small business hosting multiple apprentices on 1 March 2020, but I cannot retain all the apprentices. If I continue to host of one of more of these apprentices, will my business be eligible for the subsidy if I take on eligible apprentices in the future?

Yes, if the apprentice's direct employer is a GTO.

Q. I run a small business directly employing multiple apprentices on 1 March 2020, but I cannot retain all the apprentices. Will my business be eligible for the subsidy for the apprentices we continue to employ?

Yes. A small business will be eligible to attract this subsidy for any apprentice that is retained (subject to meeting the eligibility criteria). This is regardless of whether other apprentices employed by the small business have been retained or not.

Q. I run a small business directly employing multiple apprentices on 1 March 2020, but I cannot retain all the apprentices. If I continue the employment of one of more of these apprentices but not all, will my business be eligible for the subsidy if I re-engage (employ) eligible apprentices in the future?

No, not if the small business employs the apprentice directly. For employers (other than GTOs), where an Australian Apprenticeship is cancelled, the employer will not be eligible to attract this subsidy if they re-engage another apprentice.

Yes, if the small business hosts the apprentice and the apprentice's employer is a GTO. It is important to note that if the apprentice was re-engaged by the GTO (i.e. they had a different employer on 1 March 2020) then the GTO can opt to keep the subsidy and not pass it on to the host.

Q. If a GTO cancels the apprenticeship for an eligible apprentice, is another GTO or business able to access the wage subsidy if they re-engage this apprentice?

Yes, in accordance with the re-engagement criteria.

Q. I represent a GTO employing multiple apprentices on 1 March 2020, but we have cancelled the apprenticeship for an eligible apprentice. Can the GTO continue to access the wage subsidy for other eligible apprentices we employed on 1 March 2020?

Yes.

Q. I represent a GTO employing multiple apprentices on 1 March 2020, but we have cancelled the apprenticeship for an eligible apprentice. Can the GTO continue to access the wage subsidy for eligible apprentices we re-engage after 1 March 2020?

Yes, provided that some of the eligible apprentices engaged on 1 March 2020 remain employed by the GTO.