



"SKILLING TOMORROW'S  
WORKFORCE TODAY"

# Australian Skills Group Newsletter

August 2024

## New Support and Funding for Australian Apprentices

**Federal Skills Minister Brendan O'Connor has praised new support programs for tradies**

Apprentices in priority areas and their employers are now eligible for increased financial incentives - \$5000, up from \$3000 and \$4000.

These changes aim to boost support at the start of apprenticeships, with a focus on women in male-dominated industries, Indigenous apprentices, and those in remote areas or with disabilities.

"A successful apprenticeship system means a successful and prosperous economy, as custodians of the apprenticeship system, Apprentice Connect Australia providers have a great responsibility to ensure this success is realised" O'Connor said.

In addition, **new diversity targets under the Australian Skills Guarantee have begun**. At least 10% of labour hours on Commonwealth-funded projects must be completed by apprentices, with women making up a minimum of 6% of trainee or apprenticeship hours. These targets will increase annually until 2030.

"By also introducing targets for women apprentices on major eligible Commonwealth-funded construction and ICT projects, we're helping create a more diverse and inclusive workforce that will deliver benefits for women apprentices, their employers and the national economy" O'Connor said.

The programs are part of the government's **\$600 million workforce development funding**, which includes \$90 million for 20,000 fee-free TAFE and VET places.

These measures aim to enhance diversity, boost the skilled workforce, and strengthen Australia's economy.

With **ASG's Pre-apprenticeship pathway in electrotechnology**, you'll gain the essential skills and knowledge needed to enter an apprenticeship with confidence.

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