



Australian Government

jobactive
work for the dole

Keeping you safe at Work for the Dole — information for job seekers

Work for the Dole is part of jobactive. It is a work experience program which places job seekers in activities where they can gain skills, experience and confidence to move from welfare to work while giving back to their community.

When you take part in Work for the Dole, your health and safety is important. Everyone involved in a Work for the Dole Activity has a responsibility for making sure that it is safe.

What can I do to stay safe when I'm taking part in Work for the Dole?

Under work health and safety legislation you must take reasonable care for your own health and safety, as well as the health and safety of the people around you, including other Work for the Dole participants. When participating in Work for the Dole, you will need to:

- attend all relevant training
- use any safety equipment and clothing provided and do so appropriately
- take care to avoid doing anything that may be likely to cause harm to yourself or to others
- follow instructions and work systems of your host organisation
- report hazards and health and safety problems to your supervisor as soon as you see them.

Who else is involved in work health and safety when I'm at Work for the Dole?

Your jobactive provider and your Work for the Dole host organisation will play a role in keeping you safe at work. For example:

- your jobactive provider must check that your activity is safe and conduct a written risk assessment

- your Work for the Dole host organisation must comply with relevant health and safety laws
- your Work for the Dole host organisation must provide adequate and appropriate supervision
- your jobactive provider or your Work for the Dole host organisation must provide any training that will be required to ensure that you participate in the activities safely, including work, health and safety training; ensure access to facilities such as toilets and access to drinking water; and provide any safety equipment required for your Work for the Dole Activity like steel-cap boots and high-vis work clothes.

Am I insured when I am doing Work for the Dole?

To cover job seekers while they are participating in Work for the Dole Activities, the Australian Government has purchased:

- personal accident insurance for injury or death that occurs during activities, including any associated training, and travel to and from activities, and
- combined public and/or products liability insurance which covers job seekers' liability arising out of their negligence that causes personal injury to third parties or damage to third parties' property.

The personal accident policy is not a workers' compensation policy. Participants in Work for the Dole Activities do not generally qualify for workers' compensation.

What should I do if I am involved in an accident?

If you are involved in an accident or incident during a Work for the Dole Activity, associated training or travelling to or from activities, you should tell your supervisor and your jobactive provider straight away. They will let you know what you need to do next. Depending on the situation, the supervisor may provide first aid, or refer you to further medical assistance.

Your supervisor or jobactive provider will report the incident to the Department and its insurers. Your jobactive provider will help you if you need to make an insurance claim for any injury that might happen during a Work for the Dole Activity.

Costs that can be claimed against Medicare are not covered by the insurance, for example, medical bills from doctors, hospitals, specialists and the like. These bills should be submitted to Medicare for reimbursement. Insurance also doesn't usually cover the "Medicare gap", that is, any balance of money payable after the deduction of any Medicare benefit.

What should I do if I have concerns about my work environment?

Your Work for the Dole host organisation and jobactive provider should tell you how to report work health and safety issues and any other concerns.

You cannot be made to do unsafe tasks, so you should raise any specific concerns immediately with your host organisation. If you are unhappy about how your host organisation is dealing with your concerns, contact your jobactive provider.

If you are not satisfied with the response from your jobactive provider, you can contact the National Customer Service Line on 1800 805 260.

You can also contact the safe work authority in your state or territory. You can find their contact details at www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au.

Want more information?

- Contact your jobactive provider www.employment.gov.au/work-dole
- Read the Participant Insurance Guide at <https://docs.employment.gov.au/documents/job-seeker-insurance-guide> or from your jobactive provider.

Do you need help with this fact sheet?

If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450* and ask for the Employment Services Information Line on 13 62 68*.

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment you can use the National Relay Service. For more information, visit www.relayservice.gov.au.

*** Note that call charges apply for calls to '13' numbers from mobile phones**