



Skilling Australians Fund

The Australian Government is committed to Australia's training system

The Australian Government is committed to supporting the vocational education and training (VET) system. In the 2017–18 Budget, the Government established the Skilling Australians Fund (the Fund) to support the training needs of Australians prioritised towards apprenticeships and traineeships in industries and occupations in demand.

From 1 July 2018, the Fund is managed through a four-year project-based National Partnership with six participating state and territory governments (the states). With matched funding from the states, the Fund aims to support thousands of additional apprentices and trainees to strengthen Australia's future productivity, jobs and growth.

Working with states to deliver outcomes

New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory have all signed the National Partnership. Specific state level agreements between the Government and participating states can be viewed at the [Council of Federal Financial Relations website](#).

These agreements describe state based projects, funding commitments and proposed state targets for additional training places. Each agreement is different, reflecting the distinct VET systems and employer needs in each state. For example, some states have an agreement for one year and others have four-year agreements.

States' access to funding will depend on meeting eligibility criteria as agreed in the National Partnership and the state level agreement. This includes a commitment to maintain levels of funding in their state skills system, matching the Australian Government's funding for state projects, and achieving targets and milestones.

Skilling Australians Fund Levy

The Fund is partially financed by a levy paid by employers who sponsor foreign skilled workers under certain permanent and temporary visa classes. The purpose of the levy is to require employers seeking to access skilled overseas workers to contribute to the skills development of Australians.

The levy is managed by the Department of Home Affairs. If you would like to find out more information about the levy, including payment and refunds, please contact the [Department of Home Affairs](#).

Targeted joint investment will help more Australians get the skills they need

Under the National Partnership, each state has the opportunity to develop projects for consideration by the Australian Government. Funding is prioritised to projects which support training in occupations in high demand that currently rely on skilled migration, future growth industries, and in rural and regional areas.

Projects will need to demonstrate engagement with, and support from, industry and employers. Industry is a key partner in ensuring that training delivers the skills industry needs and that skills spending is targeted to jobs in demand. Through continued industry engagement in the VET sector, these projects will support ongoing employment outcomes for apprentices and trainees.

For further information

For updates continue to visit the [Skilling Australians Fund website](#). To contact the team, please use the department's [online enquiry form](#).

