



Australian Government

jobactive
work for the dole

Work for the Dole—information for Host Organisations

jobactive is the Australian Government's way to get more Australians into work.

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

Being a Work for the Dole host allows organisations to undertake projects or activities which they might otherwise not have the capacity to do.

There is a network of jobactive providers across Australia who will work with you to identify suitable Work for the Dole Activities which are of benefit to the community.

What activities can participants undertake?

There are many activities that a Work for the Dole participant may do. For example:

- gardening or maintenance
- computer graphics work
- animal or wildlife shelter activities
- retail work
- rehabilitation of public parks
- office administration
- warehouse duties.

You can host one or more individual places, or a project delivered by a group of job seekers. A Work for the Dole place will usually last for six months.

Your jobactive provider can help you determine the projects that participants complete.

There are some limitations on the type of activities job seekers can do. For example, Work for the Dole Activities cannot include roles in child care, preschools or caring for the elderly or other vulnerable people.

Work for the Dole places cannot replace paid work positions, or involve tasks that would normally be done by a paid employee. This includes casual and part-time employees, or reducing the hours or customary overtime usually worked by a paid worker.

Activities must not take place exclusively on private property unless they are part of a Community Support Project to assist in recovery from natural disasters.

What are Indigenous specific Work for the Dole Activities?

Host organisations can establish Indigenous specific Work for the Dole Activities. These are activities that:

- have an Indigenous host organisation and/or are for the benefit of an Indigenous community
- are linked to community goals, and
- help support achievable and meaningful career pathways for Indigenous participants.

Examples of Indigenous specific Work for the Dole Activities could include:

- constructing an educational trail with sculptures and signage around an Indigenous facility
- renovating a community facility
- creating and building a community garden to grow vegetables that can be given back to the community.

Who can host a Work for the Dole Activity?

Work for the Dole Activities can only be hosted by not-for-profit organisations, the not-for-profit arm of a for-profit organisation, and local, state, territory and Australian government agencies.

As a host organisation, you will need to:

- provide work-like activities for Work for the Dole participants
- provide participants with supervision, any required training, and monitor their attendance
- ensure that your activity meets all relevant work health and safety requirements.

Job seekers continue to receive income support and assistance from their jobactive provider during Work for the Dole.

How can you become a Work for the Dole host organisation?

Your local jobactive provider will work with you to identify opportunities to host activities.

To find your local jobactive provider visit www.jobs.gov.au/work-dole-jobactive-provider-contacts

What support is available?

Your jobactive provider will work closely with you to ensure your needs are met.

This includes having job seekers complete any training necessary before commencing and resolving any issues that come up.

Funding is available to help offset some of the costs of hosting a Work for the Dole Activity. This will be discussed with your jobactive provider.

Further guidance is available in the Host Handbook document available at www.jobs.gov.au/work-dole

Want more information?

- Go to www.jobs.gov.au/work-dole
- Call the Employment Services Information Line on 13 62 68*

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*