



Australian Government

jobactive
work for the dole

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 build new skills, experience and confidence to move from welfare to work while giving back to their community.

Do I need to do Work for the Dole?

If you are in jobactive, are aged between 18 and the Age Pension age:

- receive an income support payment such as Newstart Allowance, Youth Allowance (other), or Parenting Payment and your youngest child is at least six years of age, and
- have a mutual obligation requirement (that is, you need to do certain things to keep receiving income support)

you need to complete an Annual Activity Requirement for six months each year if you are still in jobactive after 12 months.

Work for the Dole is one of the ways that you can meet your Annual Activity Requirement.

You can also meet your Annual Activity Requirement by doing other approved activities or a combination of approved activities, such as part-time work, part-time study in an eligible course, accredited language, literacy and numeracy training or volunteering.

If you are under 18 years of age you cannot do Work for the Dole and will need to do another approved activity.

How many hours of Work for the Dole will I need to do?

There are different requirements based on your age. If you are aged:

- 18 to 49 years, you will need to complete 50 hours per fortnight of Work for the Dole or another approved activity for six months each year
- 50 to 59 years, you will need to complete 30 hours per fortnight of an approved activity for six months each year, which can include volunteering for Work for the Dole.
- 60 years of age or over (up to Age Pension age) you will need to complete 10 hours per fortnight of an approved activity for six months each year, which can include volunteering for Work for the Dole or other approved activities.

Job seekers aged 18 to 59, who have a partial capacity to work or who are principal carer parents will need to participate in Work for the Dole (or other approved activities) for less hours than other job seekers.

If you have a partial capacity to work or are a principal carer parent and:

- aged 18 to 30, you will need to participate for 30 hours per fortnight
- aged 30 to 59, you will need to participate for 15-16 hours per fortnight.

If you are over 60 with a part time activity test you are not required to participate in an approved activity.

Your jobactive provider will let you know when you need to do Work for the Dole or another activity. You will still be supported by your jobactive provider while you undertake Work for the Dole and look for work.

How will Work for the Dole help me?

Work for the Dole activities will give you the chance to:

- build the skills that employers want, like teamwork, communication and reliability
- increase your confidence and show you are ready for work
- meet new people and make contacts who can be a referee for you when you apply for jobs
- be involved in your local community.

When you take part in Work for the Dole you will receive an extra \$20.80 per fortnight.

What will I be doing?

There are many different work-like activities that you can do through Work for the Dole.

Some examples of things you might do include:

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

The purpose of Work for the Dole is to place you in a work-like role. This will give you the best opportunity to show your skills to potential employers.

Your jobactive provider will place you in a suitable Work for the Dole activity and make sure you have completed any training or required activities before you start.

Where will I undertake Work for the Dole?

Work for the Dole activities take place at not-for-profit organisations such as charities and community organisations, and government agencies.

What happens if I don't do Work for the Dole?

If you are required to complete Work for the Dole or another approved activity and don't participate, your income support may be reduced or stopped.

Want more information?

- Ask your jobactive provider
- 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*