



Australian Government

**jobactive**  
work for the dole

## Work for the Dole

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.

### What do job seekers do at Work for the Dole?

Job seekers undertake work-like activities at a host organisation or as part of a community-based project. This helps participants to:

- develop the skills that employers want—like team work, communication and reliability
- increase confidence and show that they are ready to start working
- meet new people and make contacts who can be a referee
- get involved in their local community
- meet mutual obligation requirements to continue to receive income support.

### 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.

### Do job seekers have to do Work for the Dole?

This depends on their individual circumstances. Generally, job seekers in jobactive commence in the Work for the Dole Phase after 12 months on income support. This means they will need to complete an Annual Activity Requirement for six months each year they remain in jobactive.

Job seekers can do this by participating in Work for the Dole, another approved activity 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 voluntary work.

Job seekers over the age of 18, who don't have Annual Activity Requirements, can also ask to participate in Work for the Dole.

### How many hours of Work for the Dole do job seekers need to do?

If job seekers are:

- aged 18 to 49 years, they will need to complete 50 hours per fortnight of Work for the Dole or another approved activity for six months each year
- aged 50 to 59 years, they 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) they 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.

### **Is there flexibility for job seekers with reduced capacity?**

Job seekers aged up 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 job seekers are:

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

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

### **Do job seekers get anything extra for participating in Work for the Dole?**

Job seekers on income support who are participating in Work for the Dole can receive an income support supplement of \$20.80 per fortnight.

### **Who can host a Work for the Dole Activity?**

Work for the Dole Activities can only be hosted by not-for-profit organisations and local, state, territory and Australian government agencies. Activities may also be hosted in not-for-profit arms of for-profit organisations.

Work for the Dole hosts can participate in the program by:

- offering individual places for job seekers—hosts can offer more than one at a time
- undertaking a project delivered by a group of job seekers.

### **How can host organisations get involved?**

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

jobactive providers work with host organisations to source Work for the Dole Activities to place job seekers into. Organisations interested in hosting a Work for the Dole Activity should contact their local jobactive provider. Find your local jobactive provider at [www.jobs.gov.au/work-dole-jobactive-provider-contacts](http://www.jobs.gov.au/work-dole-jobactive-provider-contacts).

For more information on hosting a Work for the Dole activity see [www.jobs.gov.au/work-dole](http://www.jobs.gov.au/work-dole) for further information.

### **Want more information?**

- Go to [www.jobs.gov.au/work-dole](http://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\* or the National Customer Service Line on 1800 805 260\*.

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment you can use the National Relay Service. For more information, visit their website at [www.relayservice.gov.au](http://www.relayservice.gov.au).

*\* Note that call charges apply for calls to '13' and '1800' numbers from mobile phone*