



Australian Government



# WAGE CONNECT—FACT SHEET

## What is Wage Connect?

Wage Connect is an Australian Government initiative to help people who are very long-term unemployed transition to sustainable, ongoing paid employment.

It is a new wage subsidy that was announced as part of the Government's Building Australia's Future Workforce package.

## What is the aim of Wage Connect?

Wage Connect is designed to:

- increase employment opportunities for people who are very long-term unemployed
- provide an incentive for employers to offer jobs to people with minimal or no recent work experience
- reduce the number of very long-term unemployed job seekers on income support.

## Who is eligible?

Individuals who:

- have been on income support payments for at least the last two years
- are registered with an Australian Government employment services provider
- have minimal or no recent work experience.

There are also eligibility requirements for employers and the types of jobs that can be offered. Employment services providers can provide further information.

## What are the benefits of Wage Connect?

Wage Connect provides job seekers with the opportunity to gain paid work and to transition to greater financial independence. At the same time, employers will get help to offset the costs of wages and training for the first six months a person is employed.

## How does it work?

Wage Connect is paid directly to the employer.

To access Wage Connect, employers simply need to enter in to a Wage Connect Agreement with an employment services provider prior to a job seeker commencing in a position.

To claim the subsidy, employers need to provide the employment services provider with evidence of the employment. Employers can claim the subsidy as frequently as they wish following payment of wages to the employee.

## How long is Wage Connect paid for?

Wage Connect is paid for the first 26 weeks a person is employed. It may be paid for longer in some circumstances.

## How much is Wage Connect worth?

Wage Connect is worth around \$5700 per placement, or \$220 per week (pre-GST).

## What types of jobs can be offered?

Any suitable work can be offered but jobs must be ongoing and sustainable and expected to last after Wage Connect has ceased.

Wage Connect will not be paid for short-term or temporary jobs.

## Other assistance

Employment services providers will support employers and new employees during the period Wage Connect is being paid.

## How many places will be available?

There will be 35 000 places available over four years.

## When does it start?

Wage Connect will be available from 1 January 2012.

## Want more information?

To learn more about Wage Connect, visit [www.deewr.gov.au/wageconnectsubsidy](http://www.deewr.gov.au/wageconnectsubsidy) or contact a local employment services provider.