



Australian Government

jobactive
work for the dole

jobactive
new employment
services trial

For safety advice (including COVID-19) for Work for the Dole please refer to the [Keeping you safe fact sheet](#)

Work for the Dole

Work for the Dole is part of the Australian Government's employment services. It is a work experience program that offers job seekers the opportunity to demonstrate their capabilities, contribute to their local community and build skills to help find ongoing work.

What is a Work for the Dole activity?

A Work for the Dole activity provides work-like experiences to participants at a Host Organisation. Activities are designed to help individuals to enhance their skills, increase their confidence, meet new people and make contacts while also meeting their requirements.



Individual Hosted activities

- Has one single Work for the Dole participant, or
- Involves multiple Work for the Dole participants doing individual tasks of the same related type in one or more locations
- Has different tasks split into sub activities, where Work for the Dole participants do individual 'like' tasks in one or more locations
- Usually runs for six months' duration, but can be up to 12 months.



Group Based activities

- Has a specific goal or deliverable with an identified end date
- Involves a group of Work for the Dole participants working as a team to meet a common, goal, deliverable or end date
- Usually runs for six months' duration, but can be up to 12 months
- Can be separated into different phases, so over time a larger project is achieved through multiple group activities
- Can be focused around a seasonal event.

There are many activities that a Work for the Dole participant may do. For example, gardening or maintenance, electronic archiving of hard copy documents, rehabilitation of public parks, animal or wildlife shelters, or helping to establish a social enterprise. Limitations apply, including not working in childcare or a pre-school or an activity involving personal care of an intimate nature. An activity must also not replace paid work positions, or involve tasks normally done by a paid employee.

What are Indigenous specific Work for the Dole activities?

Host Organisations can establish Indigenous specific Work for the Dole activities. These activities:

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

What are Community Support Projects (CSPs)?

CSPs are projects that will contribute to recovery efforts following a disaster event or assist with nationally significant projects at a local level. These projects have been identified as providing social, economic, environmental, cultural and/ or heritage benefit to the Australian community. CSPs are not designed to replace the roles of specialised emergency services, and they require prior written approval from the department to proceed.

Do all people on income support have to do Work for the Dole?

No. It depends on individual circumstances, and where a person is located. Under jobactive generally, job seekers 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. This may include participation in Work for the Dole, or other activities such as voluntary work, study/training, Career Transition Assistance, or the National Work Experience Programme.

From 1 October 2021, job seekers who have completed 6 months in employment services, will have a Six Month Activity Requirement. They will need to undertake study or training, paid work or an approved activity for up to 8 weeks. If an eligible job seeker does not choose an alternative approved activity, they may be required to complete an 8 week placement in Work for the Dole.

For information on Work for the Dole participation requirements in the New Employment Service Trial (NEST) employment regions, including how to fulfil your mutual obligation, please contact your local employment service provider or National Customer Service Line on 1800 805 260.

Do participants get anything extra for doing Work for the Dole?

Eligible job seekers on income support who participate in a Work for the Dole activity receive the Approved Program of Work 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.

Being a Work for the Dole host allows organisations to undertake projects or activities which they might not otherwise have the capacity to do. All activities must meet all relevant work health and safety requirements. For more information on becoming a [Work for the Dole Host Organisation](#)¹ go to the department's website to access the Host Organisation Fact Sheet.

Providers work with Host Organisations to source Work for the Dole activities to place job seekers. Organisations interested in hosting a Work for the Dole activity should contact their local provider. Find your local provider on the [jobactive provider contacts](#)² page on the department's website.

Want more information?

- Go to the [Work for the Dole](#)³.
- Call the National Customer Service Line on 1800 805 260

Do you need help with this fact sheet?

If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450*.

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment you can use the National Relay Service. For more information, visit the [AccessHub](#)⁴ website.

* Note that call charges apply for calls to '13' numbers from mobile phones.

¹ <https://www.dese.gov.au/work-dole/information-work-dole-host-organisations>

² <https://www.dese.gov.au/work-dole-jobactive-provider-contacts>

³ <https://www.dese.gov.au/work-dole>

⁴ <https://www.communications.gov.au/what-we-do/phone/services-people-disability/accesshub>