



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

Information for Host Organisations

Work for the Dole is part of the Australian Government's employment service. It is a work experience program designed to help job seekers gain new skills, experience and confidence while they look for work. It offers individuals the opportunity to demonstrate their capabilities and contribute to their local community.

As a Work for the Dole Host Organisation, you are a critical component of the program, and can get access to additional support to undertake activities and projects that may not normally get done.

There is a network of jobactive providers across Australia who will work with you to identify suitable Work for the Dole activities which benefit the community. Work for the Dole is also available under the New Employment Services Trial (NEST) in the employment regions of Adelaide South and NSW's Mid North Coast.

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.

What is the role of the Host?

As a Work for the Dole Host, you will provide work-like activities, with supervision and on-the-job training. You will provide participants with the opportunity to enhance 'soft skills' like teamwork, adaptability and problem-solving.

Work for the Dole can only take place where it is safe to do so. As a Host Organisation you must ensure that your activity meets all relevant work health and safety requirements. Specific consideration should be given to the number of places made available on Work for the Dole activities, ensuring that social distancing requirements can be maintained. Host Organisations are also required to have a COVID-Safe plan (or similar) in place, in accordance with the requirements specified by the relevant state and territory government.

Read the [Host Organisation Handbook](#)¹ for more information.

What activities can participants undertake?

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. Some limitations can apply to the types of activities participants can do. This includes not working in childcare or a pre-school or an activity involving personal care of an intimate nature. An activity must not replace paid work positions, or involve tasks normally done by a paid employee.

¹ <https://www.dese.gov.au/work-dole/resources/work-dole-host-organisation-handbook>

Individual vs Group Based activities

Your local provider can help you to determine the most suitable activity for participants. Most Work for the Dole activities generally operate for six months, but some may operate for up to 12 months. Job seekers may have different attendance requirements, depending on their individual circumstances.

An Individual Hosted activity has:



- one single Work for the Dole participant or
- multiple Work for the Dole participants doing individual tasks of the same related type in one or more locations
- different tasks split into sub activities, where Work for the Dole participants do individual 'like' tasks in one or more locations.

A Group Based activity:



- has a specific goal or deliverable with an identified end date, and 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 operate longer
- 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.

What support is available to Hosts?

Your local provider will work closely to ensure your needs are met, including having participants complete any necessary training before commencing, and resolving any issues that come up.

Find your [local jobactive and NEST providers](#)².

Host Organisations are eligible for assistance with some costs for running an activity. The Department of Education, Skills and Employment expects providers to clearly explain the funding available to help offset the costs of the activity. The funding available will depend on the type and length of the activity. More information on the funding available is outlined in the Host Organisation Handbook.

Want more information?

Further guidance on Work for the Dole is available on the [Work for the Dole](#)³ website with:

- [Information for Hosts](#)⁴ and
- Access to the [Work for the Dole Host Organisation Handbook](#)⁵.
- Or 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*.

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment you can use the National Relay Service. For more information, visit the [AccessHub](#)⁶ website.

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

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

³ <https://www.dese.gov.au/work-dole>

⁴ <https://www.dese.gov.au/work-dole/information-work-dole-host-organisations>

⁵ <https://www.dese.gov.au/work-dole/resources/work-dole-host-organisation-handbook>

⁶ www.communications.gov.au/what-we-do/phone/services-people-disability/accesshub