



Australian Government



## Work Experience: Drought Force

Drought Force can help you to gain skills and experience by providing assistance to individual farms and farming communities that are severely affected by drought.

Drought Force provides support for farming properties and helps to prevent farm labour from moving away from the region.

Drought Force activities:

- help reduce the impacts of drought
- ease the burden of drought for farmers and their families
- make sure that farms and properties are maintained and able to cope once a drought breaks
- encourage people to remain in their local community, retaining and building local skills
- support the local economy to deal with the impact of drought
- support local community priorities.

A Drought Force placement might be with a team on a group activity with other job seekers, or might be an individual placement with a host farmer.

All participants in Drought Force Activities must be offered structured training, where appropriate and available. This training can include accredited and non-accredited training.

Job seekers are able to participate at times that best suit their other obligations, such as study, part-time or casual employment or parental responsibilities.

### Location of Drought Force Activities

Drought Force Activities can only take place in areas declared by the Australian Government as Exceptional Circumstance (EC) areas.

To determine if an area has an EC declaration, or is eligible for other Australian Government drought assistance measures, visit the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at [daff.gov.au](http://daff.gov.au).

### Drought Force 60+

If you are a job seeker who chooses to participate in Drought Force for 60 hours or more each fortnight you will not be required to search for work, as you are considered to be making a significant contribution to local farms affected by drought. You will, however, still be required to meet on a regular basis with your Job Services Australia provider.

### Drought Force Only

People aged over 21 years who are not eligible for income support may volunteer for Drought Force Activities. You may approach a Job Services Australia provider directly for a Drought Force placement.

### Who can participate?

If you are a job seeker registered with a Job Services Australia provider you can volunteer to participate in Drought Force at any time, if you and your Job Services Australia provider agree it will benefit you.

If you are a job seeker who has a Work Experience Activity Requirement you can meet this requirement by participating in Drought Force.

If you are a job seeker required to complete an Intensive Activity, you can do this through participating in Drought Force. Your Job Services Australia provider will advise you if you are required to complete an Intensive Activity.

Drought Force activities may only be undertaken by job seekers on a voluntary basis. If you do not wish to undertake a Drought Force activity you can be placed into another suitable Work Experience Activity to fulfil your participation requirements, where relevant.

If you are a job seeker who receives income support and participates in Drought Force, you will be entitled to a supplement of \$20.80 per fortnight to assist with the costs of participation.

If you are a Drought Force Only participant you are not eligible for this supplement.

## How to apply

If you are a job seeker or volunteer interested in participating in Drought Force you should discuss this with your Job Services Australia provider.

## Your obligations

If you receive Newstart, Youth Allowance or Parenting Payment with participation requirements, you will need to look for work and take part in activities that will help you get a job.

Your Job Services Australia provider will consider your personal circumstances and negotiate suitable activities to include in your Employment Pathway Plan.

If you are unable to take part in activities you should discuss this with your provider. If you fail to undertake your agreed activities, this may affect your income support payments.

## Your right to privacy

Your personal information is protected by the *Privacy Act 1988* and information about you may also be protected by the *Social Security (Administration) Act 1999* (for example, if you are receiving income support). Your information may be shared between Job Services Australia providers, the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), Centrelink and other Australian Government departments and agencies, which enables the organisations to provide you with the most appropriate services to meet your needs.

For more information about your privacy, ask your Job Services Australia provider, DEEWR or visit [privacy.gov.au](http://privacy.gov.au).

## Our guarantee of service to you

### Service Guarantee

You will receive ongoing personalised employment services provided by your Job Services Australia provider. These services will be sensitive to your circumstances and background. To view all Service Guarantees visit [deewr.gov.au/jobservicesaustralia](http://deewr.gov.au/jobservicesaustralia).

### Code of Practice

Job Services Australia providers are contracted to deliver Australian Government funded employment services and have agreed and are committed to observe the Employment Services Code of Practice. To view the Code of Practice visit [deewr.gov.au/jobservicesaustralia](http://deewr.gov.au/jobservicesaustralia).

## For more information

Call 13 17 64 or visit [deewr.gov.au/jobservicesaustralia](http://deewr.gov.au/jobservicesaustralia)