



Australian Government



## Work Experience: Work for the Dole

**Work for the Dole will provide you with the opportunity to build skills and gain experience through activities which benefit local communities across Australia.**

Work for the Dole activities are available with not-for-profit and community organisations, or with local, State, Territory or Australian Government organisations and agencies.

All participants in Work for the Dole activities must be offered structured training, where appropriate and available.

You may also be able to participate during times that best suit your other obligations, such as study, part-time or casual employment, or parental responsibilities.

A Work for the Dole placement might see you working as part of a team on a group activity with other job seekers, or an individual placement with a host organisation (such as a community group or charity).

The type of tasks you could undertake on a Work for the Dole activity vary but can include opportunities to develop skills in:

- computing
- office or retail
- customer service
- landscaping or gardening
- woodworking, painting, decorating, metalworking or electrical testing
- maintenance of vehicles and buildings
- restoring historic buildings and vehicles
- hospitality, including food preparation
- helping members of the community such as the elderly, people with disability or children (you may require a police clearance before working in nursing homes or with children)
- recording local history
- producing videos, websites or publicity materials.

The range of activities available will be different for each Job Services Australia provider and may include more options to those listed above.

Job Services Australia providers must make sure that Work for the Dole activities:

- improve a job seeker's chances of finding employment
- provide flexible work experience opportunities for job seekers to help them in connecting with their community and the workplace
- offer opportunities for structured training for all participants where appropriate and available
- provide work experience that will develop or enhance a job seeker's ability to work as part of a team, be guided by a supervisor, work independently, communicate effectively and improve motivation and dependability
- seek local community involvement in activities that will generate outcomes to benefit the community.

### Full-Time Work for the Dole

As a job seeker you can participate in Work for the Dole or Full-Time Work for the Dole. These activities are similar and you can do the same types of tasks regardless of if you are participating in Work for the Dole or Full-Time Work for the Dole. The main difference is the total number of hours of participation.

Full-Time Work for the Dole is a more intensive form of Work for the Dole activity. Generally, participation in Full-Time Work for the Dole will be for 25 hours per week for 10 months and usually includes more than one Work for the Dole activity.

If you are aged between 18 and 59 years you can be required to participate in Full-Time Work for the Dole if your Job Services Australia provider considers you would benefit from a more intensive activity.

### Who can participate?

If you are registered with a Job Services Australia provider you can volunteer to participate in Work for the Dole at any time, if you and your 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 Work for the Dole.

If you are a job seeker required to complete an Intensive Activity or a Compliance Activity you can do this through participating in Work for the Dole. Your Job Services Australia provider will advise you if you are required to complete an Intensive Activity or a Compliance Activity.

If you receive income support and participate in Work for the Dole, including Full-Time Work for the Dole, you will be entitled to a supplement of \$20.80 per fortnight to assist with the costs of participation.

## How to apply

If you are interested in taking part in a Work for the Dole activity for your Work Experience Activity Requirement, talk to 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](https://www.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](https://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](https://deewr.gov.au/jobservicesaustralia).

## For more information

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