Back to Work - Employer Support Payments

The Back to Work Regional Employment Package (Back to Work) is a two year $100 million package giving businesses the confidence to employ jobseekers in Queensland’s regions and providing an economic boost to regions facing challenging times.

It includes Employer Support Payments to encourage employers to provide up to 8,000 real jobs to eligible jobseekers in regional areas of Queensland. Back to Work Employer Support Payments include a focus on the long term unemployed, young people, older Queenslanders, Queenslanders with a disability and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Employers hiring a young jobseeker aged 15-24 (above 15 years and below 25 years) between 1 December 2016 and 31 October 2017 (inclusive) may be eligible for the $20,000 Youth Boost payment.

An employer can only apply for one Back to Work Employer Support Payment per employee and this includes the Youth Boost payment. Separate eligibility criteria apply. For more information see the Youth Boost Payment Factsheet.

Funding Details

What funding is available?

Eligible employees attract a payment of $10,000, paid to the employer. This increases to $15,000 for employees who have been unemployed for 52 weeks or more. Eligible part-time jobs between 20 and 35 hours per week on average (or 8 to 35 hours per week on average for a person with a disability with an approved work plan) attract 75% of the full support payment.

How are payments made?

Payments will be made directly to the employer of an eligible employee, and will be paid in two parts:

1. first payment of 40% after 4 weeks of employment and acceptance of the application; and
2. final payment of 60% on completion of 52 weeks continuous employment with the same employer.

Applications must be received within 12 weeks of the commencement date of the employee. At the completion of the 12 month period successful applicants will have 12 weeks to claim the final payment.

Applications and claims received after this time will not be accepted.

How do I apply?

A link to the application portal is available on the Back to Work website.
Eligibility Criteria

Who is an eligible employer?

All employers who hire an eligible employee in a regional Queensland job are eligible except for government entities including local, State and Commonwealth government, government owned corporations and statutory bodies.

Employers will be asked to declare:

- they have a good workplace safety or industrial relations record;
- are committed to ongoing employment of the employee;
- the employee has not displaced any existing workers; and
- where this employment is provided for a person with a disability, the person is engaged in the mainstream workforce, alongside employees without disability.

What is a good workplace safety or industrial relations record?

An employer has a good workplace safety or industrial relations record if the employer has complied with relevant State and Commonwealth industrial and employment laws and/or has respected the rights of employees under those laws. This includes, but is not limited to, laws about:

- industrial relations
- occupational health and safety
- workers’ compensation
- discrimination
- immigration
- taxation (including superannuation)

Who is an eligible employee?

An eligible employee is a person who:

- is a permanent resident living in Queensland;
- was unemployed for at least four weeks directly prior to commencing employment with the eligible employer (long term unemployed is defined as unemployed for 52 weeks or more);
- has not undertaken paid work for the employer in the previous 52 weeks;
- commenced paid work with the eligible employer on, or after, 1 July 2016; and
- has worked for at least four weeks prior to application.

For Youth Boost eligibility see the [Youth Boost Payment Factsheet](#)

What is an eligible job?

An eligible job must:

- be mainly located in regional Queensland, that is outside of the following local government areas: Brisbane, Redlands, Logan, Gold Coast, Scenic Rim, Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Somerset, Moreton Bay, Sunshine Coast, Noosa and Toowoomba.
- not be a job on contract with a third party, such as a labour hire company or group training organisation
- be paid work full-time or part-time with standard conditions (not casual)
- be at least 20 hours per week on average (or at least 8 hours a week for a person with a disability with an approved work plan); and
- not offer full-time salary or wages above $120,000 per annum (or pro rata for part-time).
Are apprenticeships and traineeships eligible?

Payments are available for apprenticeships and traineeships where the employer is not eligible for Queensland’s Apprentice Trainee rebate for payroll tax.

More Information

For more information about the Back to Work – Regional Employment Package, go to https://backtowork.initiatives.qld.gov.au/contact-us/ or call 13QGOV (13 74 68)