Before you apply

What is the Back to Work program?

The Back to Work program is designed to give businesses the confidence to employ Queenslanders who have experienced a period of unemployment. Support payments are available to eligible employers who hire a previously unemployed Queenslander who has experienced a minimum period of unemployment directly prior to commencing work with them.

The program is available throughout regional Queensland and in areas of South East Queensland (SEQ) experiencing significant labour market challenges.

Employer Support Payments and Youth Boost payments are available under these guidelines to eligible employers who meet all the program eligibility criteria.

The program is not a wage subsidy. The decision to employ someone is at the discretion of the employer and must be a business decision that is independent of the availability of the Back to Work support payment.

Further information on the Back to Work program including terms and conditions, definitions, frequently asked questions and fact sheets is available on qld.gov.au/backtowork

Where is the Back to Work program delivered?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Back to Work Regional</th>
<th>Back to Work SEQ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eligible regions are:</td>
<td>Eligible local government areas are:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Central Queensland</td>
<td>- Ipswich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Far North Queensland</td>
<td>- Lockyer Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mackay/Whitsunday</td>
<td>- Logan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- North Queensland</td>
<td>- Moreton Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- North West Queensland</td>
<td>- Scenic Rim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- South West Queensland</td>
<td>- Somerset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Wide Bay Burnett</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What payments are available?

### Back to Work Regional

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer Support Payments ($10,000)</th>
<th>Employer Support Payments ($15,000)</th>
<th>Youth Boost Payments ($20,000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For a jobseeker previously unemployed between four and 52 weeks</td>
<td>For a jobseeker previously unemployed 52 weeks or more</td>
<td>For a jobseeker (aged between 15-24 years) previously unemployed minimum four weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Payments are made directly to the eligible employer, in three parts:
- Initial payment of $3000\(^1\) after four weeks of continuous employment and approval of the initial payment application.
- Second payment of $3500\(^1\) after 26 weeks of continuous employment with the same employer and approval of the second payment claim.
- Final payment of $3500\(^1\) after 52 weeks of continuous employment with the same employer and approval of the final payment claim.

### Back to Work SEQ

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer Support Payments ($15,000)</th>
<th>Youth Boost Payments ($20,000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For a jobseeker (25 years or over) previously unemployed 52 weeks or more</td>
<td>For a jobseeker (aged between 15-24 years) previously unemployed minimum four weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Payments are made directly to the eligible employer, in three instalments:
- Initial payment of $4500\(^1\) after four weeks of continuous employment and approval of the initial payment application.
- Second payment of $5250\(^1\) after 26 weeks of continuous employment with the same employer and approval of the second payment claim.
- Final payment of $5250\(^1\) on completion of 52 weeks of continuous employment with the same employer and approval of the final payment claim.

### Back to Work Regional and SEQ (referencing above two tables)

**N.B.** Claims cannot be made for second or final payments (later payments) unless the previous payment applications for that employee were lodged by the same employer and approved. Pro-rata payments are not available for employment less than the required continuous employment period.

\(^1\) Figures in the table are payments for eligible full-time jobs as described in the “Eligibility Criteria” table. Eligible part-time jobs attract 75 per cent of the full payment.
## Eligibility criteria

| Eligible employers | All employers are eligible except for government entities (local, state and Australian governments and entities including government-owned corporations and statutory bodies).
Each eligible employer (based on their ABN) may claim a maximum of five Back to Work applications. This cap of five applications applies to Employer Support Payments, Youth Boost payments, Mature Age Worker Boost payments and combinations of payment types.
Employers must have:
- a good workplace health and safety and industrial relations record and
- a genuine commitment to ongoing employment of the employee. |
| --- | --- |
| Eligible jobs | An eligible job must be mainly located in the areas of Queensland listed on page 1 of these guidelines, and either:
- ongoing paid full-time (at least 35 hours per week) on average or
- ongoing paid part-time (at least 20 hours per week) on average or
- for a person with a disability who has a workplace assessment to work between 8 and 20 hours per week, hours consistent with their approved benchmark, on average or
- a registered and eligible Queensland full-time or part-time apprenticeship (refer to exceptions below). |
| Ineligible jobs | Ineligible jobs include:
- a casual job (i.e. may not have guaranteed hours of work each week; may involve working irregular hours; does not provide paid sick or annual leave). Further information can be found at [https://www.fairwork.gov.au/employee-entitlements/types-of-employees/casual-part-time-and-full-time/casual-employees](https://www.fairwork.gov.au/employee-entitlements/types-of-employees/casual-part-time-and-full-time/casual-employees)
- periodic employment such as engagements that are short term in nature (e.g. weekly hire basis)
- employees transitioning from casual or periodic employment to ongoing part-time or ongoing full-time work
- where the applicant is not directly employing the employee (i.e. employed on contract via a third party, such as a labour hire company or group training organisation)
- a job that offers full-time salary or wages above $120,000 per annum (or pro-rata for part-time).
Ineligible apprenticeships include:
- a current school-based apprenticeship or traineeship
- an apprenticeship or traineeship which is funded through the Queensland Government’s Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. |
| Eligible employee for Employer Support Payments | An eligible employee for the Employer Support Payment:
- must be a permanent resident of Australia and their principal place of residency is in Queensland
- must have been unemployed for the minimum period for the specified support payment directly prior to commencing employment with the eligible employer
- must not have worked for the eligible employer in the 52 weeks directly prior to commencing employment with the eligible employer
- commenced employment with the eligible employer from 1 July 2016 in regional Queensland and 1 July 2017 in South East Queensland
- at the time the initial payment application is made, has been in paid employment with the eligible employer for at least four weeks but not more than 12 weeks |
Back to Work
– Guidelines for funding 2018–2020 Version 1.2 January 2020

How many applications can be made?

From 1 July 2017, each eligible employer (based on their ABN) may claim a maximum of five Back to Work Regional applications and five Back to Work SEQ applications. This cap applies to Employer Support Payments, Youth Boost Payments and the previously available Mature Age Worker Boost Payments and combinations of those payment types. Once a total of five initial payment applications have been approved, no further initial payment applications will be accepted.

This cap does not apply to applications for employees commencing before 1 July 2017.

Who can lodge an application for Back to Work?

Applications must be submitted by the employer, not an agent or other party. This is due to the requirement for the employer to agree to the conditions of the Back to Work program (see Employer Declaration below).

Employer declaration

Applicants will be entering into a legal agreement with the Queensland Government. Applicants will need to confirm, for each application submitted, that they:

- have thoroughly read and understood the guidelines for funding and Terms and Conditions and
- consent to the Back to Work Team sharing information with Queensland and Australian Government agencies including but not limited to the Office of State Revenue; Queensland Treasury; Office of Industrial Relations; Department of State Development,
Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning; the Queensland Ombudsman; the Queensland Police Service; Department of Education and Training; TAFE Queensland; Queensland Audit Office; Australian Taxation Office; Fair Work Ombudsman; Australian Government Department of Jobs and Small Business and Centrelink. This is for the purposes of:

- evaluating, administering, assessing, monitoring and auditing compliance with the eligibility criteria for the Back to Work Program
- supporting the delivery of other Back to Work funding and support
- promoting the Back to Work Program

• have obtained the consent of the employee (see Evidence requirements) referred to in the application to disclose the personal details of the employee for the purposes set out in the privacy statement contained in the Terms and Conditions and

• are committed to ongoing employment and that the management staff are compliant with all local, state and Australian Government laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, industrial relations and taxation (including superannuation) legislation.

**All eligibility criteria must be met to receive payments.**

**How long do I have to apply for a Back to Work payment?**

Initial payment applications must be received within eight weeks of the employee completing four weeks of continuous employment.

Later payment applications must be received within 12 weeks of the employee completing:

- 26 weeks of continuous employment for the second Employer Support Payment or Youth Boost payment
- 52 weeks of continuous employment for the final Employer Support Payment or Youth Boost Payment.

Applications and claims received outside of these timeframes will be ineligible for payment. It is highly recommended that applicants submit their applications well before the cut-off date.

Applicants must notify the Back to Work Team immediately of any problems submitting their applications within the required timeframe at backtowork@desbt.qld.gov.au

**Evidence requirements**

The online application process requires evidence that the employer, employee and job meet the eligibility criteria for the payment. This evidence must be submitted when making your online application, to enable your application to be assessed.

All scanned items must be valid, current, legible and in a standard format (e.g. PDF, JPEG or Word). Documents requiring clarification or resubmission may result in delays to the application process.
Why are witnessed copies of evidence documents required?

When applying for Back to Work support payments, it is important that your application is supported by documentary evidence that has been witnessed by an independent authorised person.

The evidence requested to support your application or later payment claim helps determine your eligibility for the program and protects applicants against potential fraud or identity theft. Documents submitted as evidence must be witnessed (i.e. certified by an authorised person) to authenticate them as true and correct at the time of submission.

The evidence documents have been chosen specifically as they should be documents that are easily accessible for most employers.

It is important to note that the original evidence document (e.g. original driver licence) is not a certified copy. An exact copy of the original evidence document (e.g. copy of the driver licence), which has been presented to and witnessed by an independent authorised person, is a certified copy.

What evidence is required as part of my initial application?

From 1 July 2019, witnessed copies of evidence documents are required for all initial applications for the Back to Work program.

Some evidence documents must be witnessed by an authorised person under the Statutory Declarations Regulations 2018. Details of who is an authorised witness to certify copies of original evidence documents can be found at https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2018L01296

The authorised person must visually sight the original evidence documents and check that there are no alterations to the copies presented to them. The authorised person must pay particular attention to names, dates and reference numbers.

The authorised person then endorses the copies with the following certification:

This is to certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original document, which I have sighted.

Date:

Signature of authorised witness:

Name of authorised witness:

Title of authorised witness (as per Statutory Declarations Regulations 2018):

Witnessed identification for the person submitting the application

Proof is required of the identity of the person submitting the application through QGrants. This identification must match the name and details of the person responsible in the QGrants account who is submitting the application.

Acceptable identification documents are:

• an Australian driver licence
• adult proof of age card (e.g. 18+ card)
• birth certificate
• citizenship certificate
• passport.

The identification must be current (not expired) at the date the employee commenced employment.

Witnessed ABN Certificate

All registered businesses will have received an ABN Certificate at the time of registering the business. This certificate may have been emailed to you at the time you registered for an ABN or sent to you in the mail. If you cannot locate this document a copy of the certificate (which includes a letter) can be requested from the Australian Business Register at https://www.abr.gov.au/business-super-funds-charities/applying-abn/your-business-information-abr/paper-copies-abn-details

The ABN and name on the ABN Certificate must match the ABN and name on your QGrants organisation account and the employee payslips you provide.

All pages of the ABN Certificate must be submitted and witnessed as part of the evidence for your application.

Please note, an ASIC certificate and ABN lookups are not accepted as evidence.

Payslips

An employee must have been in paid permanent employment with you for at least four full weeks prior to the initial application being made and must have worked the average hours relevant to a part-time or full-time application.

To prove that these requirements have been met, please provide copies of the employee’s payslips for the first four continuous full weeks of their employment with you. Payslips must be submitted as timesheets or a payroll summary will not be sufficient. The ABN and name on the payslips you provide must match the ABN and name on your ABN certificate and QGrants organisation account.


Employee consent form

An employee consent form (available on the Back to Work website), must be included with all initial payment applications submitted in QGrants from 1 July 2019.

This form must be completed and signed by the employee the application is regarding.

Employee identification

Proof is required of the jobseeker’s identity. Acceptable identification documents are:
• an Australian driver licence
• adult proof of age card (e.g. 18+ card)
• birth certificate
• citizenship certificate
• passport.

Note: If a non-Australian passport is being submitted as evidence, a letter issued by the Australian Government to the employee outlining their visa details must also be submitted.

The employee identification must be current (not expired) at the date the employee commenced employment. The first name, surname and date of birth on the employee identification must match the first name, surname and date of birth on the application.

**Employees with a disability**

If an employee has a disability and a workplace assessment to work between 8 and 20 hours per week, a signed letter issued by a Disability Employment Services Provider or Department of Human Services endorsed Job Capacity Assessment must be attached to the application. This document should detail the employee’s approved benchmark working hours or the application will not meet the required eligibility criteria. The employee must be working in accordance with their approved benchmark hours. If the payslips do not align with the approved benchmark working hours, the application will not meet the required eligibility criteria.

Eligible part-time jobs will attract 75 per cent of the full-time payment.

**Delays in obtaining evidence**

If you are waiting for evidence documents (e.g. ABN Certificate) to complete your application and it is getting close to the cut-off date, you can still apply.

Please submit your application with the information and documents available and provide details of the documents you are waiting for as an attachment to your application. You will be contacted by a member of the Back to Work Team to discuss next steps.

**Late applications**

Consideration will be given to a late application if:

a) the applicant has experienced extenuating circumstances beyond their control (e.g. ill health, loss of records due to natural disaster or a large-scale internet failure) that prevented the submission of an application within the required timeframe and

b) the Back to Work team has been notified as required in the How long do I have to apply for a Back to Work payment? section of this document.

Please note that being unaware of the Back to Work program and subsequently not submitting an application within the required timeframe is not considered an extenuating circumstance. Late application requests will not be considered in this circumstance.
The applicant must submit a request for consideration of a late application in writing via a statutory declaration, including all relevant supporting material to the Back to Work team at compliance@desbt.qld.gov.au.

Applicants will be notified in writing of a decision within 60 business days from the receipt of the written request.

**Ready to apply**

**Initial application process**

Applications must be made through the QGrants system at https://qgrants.osr.qld.gov.au/portal.

The online application form contains a series of questions you must answer to progress the application. All questions are mandatory with the exception of employee demographic questions.

The questions on the form address the eligibility criteria and are arranged in the following sections:
- Employer details – addressing employer eligibility
- Employee details – addressing employee eligibility
- Employment details – addressing job eligibility
- Required declarations and consents.

The QGrants system requires important information to be supplied including applicant contact information, bank account details, business information and evidence documents to support your application.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure information is kept up-to-date so that the Back to Work team can remain in contact regarding future applications, claims and reviews.

**Assessing your application**

Applications will be assessed based on the following eligibility criteria:
- Has the applicant complied with these guidelines including
  - eligible employer
  - eligible job
  - completion of required periods of employment
  - timeframes for submitting applications
  - supporting evidence and documentation
  - necessary consents
  - cap on approved applications?
- Has the applicant (and, if the applicant is not an individual, its owners) and the applicant’s management staff, complied with local, state and Australian laws and regulations,
including but not limited to laws relating to workplace health and safety and industrial relations?

- Has the applicant demonstrated a genuine commitment to the ongoing employment of the employee and other employees for whom applications have been submitted?
- Has the applicant’s engagement of the employee displaced any existing workers?
- Where the employment is provided for an employee with a disability, is the employee engaged in mainstream employment?
- Are there any public interest issues indicating the application should not be approved?

Examples of when an application might not be approved on a public interest basis include:
- the applicant, its owners, or relevant management staff, have a history of poor compliance with legislation, including but not limited to laws in relation to workplace health and safety and industrial relations
- matters involving fraud, and
- the applicant has already received funding for the employee under another government program

Processing your application

Applications submitted with all complete and correct information and documents are usually processed within 15 business days. This may change depending on application volume.

If you have been requested to provide more information following an initial review, your application will remain open until the required evidence documents are uploaded onto the system. You can review the status of your application at any time by logging into the QGrants system. Please note, in these cases the 15 business days commences again upon the Back to Work Team receiving the additional information.

Will I need to provide additional information?

When assessing an application, the Back to Work team may request additional information and documents to assist in determining whether the eligibility criteria have been met. This may include documents such as employment contracts to confirm employment arrangements and information from the employer and/or the employee to clarify details in the application.

If it is determined that an applicant has received a payment they were not eligible for, the Queensland Government will seek to recoup that payment from the applicant.

If an application is not approved, can a review of the decision be requested?

If the application has been processed and assessed as not meeting the eligibility criteria, the applicant will be notified that it has not been approved. Applicants may request a review of a decision. *This request must be lodged within 30 calendar days after the date of the decision.*
The request should state in detail the grounds the applicant believes the original decision should be overturned. The applicant should also attach all relevant material that supports their request. The team will only review decisions once the statement and relevant supporting material have been provided. All program eligibility criteria must be met for an original decision to be overturned.

If an applicant requests review of decisions that relate to more than one application, the applicant will need to submit separate formal requests for review for each decision.

Review requests and the additional supporting material must be lodged in writing to:

Review Officer, Back to Work Program  
PO Box 15483  
City East  
Brisbane QLD 4002

Or compliance@desbt.qld.gov.au

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of the review in writing within 60 business days from the receipt of the written request.

**After your initial claim has been approved**

**Ceased employment/changes to employment**

If the employee ceases employment with you after a payment has been made, you do not need to return the payments already received, but you will be ineligible for any further payments for that employee. However, if it is determined that you have received a payment for which the eligibility criteria were not met, the Queensland Government will seek to recover that payment from you.

If the employee ceases employment, or their employment conditions significantly change (e.g. they move from full-time to part-time) after an application has been made, you must notify the Back to Work team in writing at backtowork@desbt.qld.gov.au providing:

- the date employment ceased or changed
- an explanation of the reason why the employee ceased employment or had their employment conditions altered.

This information will be held on record for program monitoring and audit purposes (see Terms and Conditions).

**Claiming later payments**

From 1 July 2019 all initial payment applications, 26 week and 52 week claims submitted in QGrants must include an Employee Consent Form and witnessed copies of the Responsible person’s identification and the businesses ABN Certificate.

For Employer Support payments from 1 July 2019, there are now three payments one at 4, 26 and 52 weeks. For employees commencing prior to 1 July 2019, there are only two payments one at 4 and 52 weeks.
If you have had an initial payment approved before 1 July 2019, you must resubmit your ABN Certificate, ensuring that all pages have been witnessed, as well as the additional documents now required as part of claiming your later payments.

Please note that these additional evidence documents only need to be submitted once as part of your initial, 26 week or 52 week claim. If you have previously submitted these evidence documents from 1 July 2019 you don’t need to resubmit them.

What evidence is required as part of my later claims?

Applicants must reaffirm that they continue to meet the eligibility criteria for all later payments outlined in the payment schedule. Evidence must be provided to support each later application including that continuous employment has occurred for the specified period of time. Applicants are required to upload into the QGrants System a clear and legible scan of the required documents in a PDF, JPEG or Word format.

Some evidence documents must be certified by an authorised witness under the Statutory Declarations Regulations 2018. Details of who is an authorised witness can be found at https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2018L01296.

The authorised witness must visually site the original documents and check that there are no alterations to the copies. They are to pay particular attention to names, dates and reference numbers. The authorised witness then endorses the copies with the following certification:

> This is to certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original document, which I have sighted.
> Date: 
> Signature of authorised witness: 
> Name of authorised witness: 
> Title of authorised witness (as per Statutory Declarations Regulations 2018):

Witnessed identification for the person submitting the later payment claim

Proof is required of the identity of the person submitting the application through QGrants. This identification must match the name and details of the person responsible in the QGrants account who is submitting the application.

Acceptable identification documents are:

- an Australian driver licence
- adult proof of age card (e.g. 18+ card)
- birth certificate
- citizenship certificate
- passport.

The identification must be current (not expired) at the date the employee commenced employment.
**Witnessed ABN Certificate**

All registered businesses will have received an ABN Certificate at the time of registering the business. This certificate may have been emailed to you at the time you registered for an ABN or sent to you in the mail. If you cannot locate this document a copy of the certificate (which includes a letter) can be requested from the Australian Business Register at https://www.abr.gov.au/business-super-funds-charities/applying-abn/your-business-information-abr/paper-copies-abn-details

The ABN and name on the ABN certificate must match the ABN and name on your QGrants organisation account and the employee payslips you provide.

All pages of the ABN Certificate must be submitted and witnessed as part of the evidence for your application.

Please note, an ASIC certificate and ABN lookups are not accepted as evidence.

**Payslips**

Payslips are used to provide evidence of continuous permanent employment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required documents are:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>For 26-week claims:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To support your claim, you must provide evidence to demonstrate that your employee has completed 26 weeks continuous paid employment with you and must have worked the average hours relevant to a part-time or full-time application. This evidence must include:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• if the period of employment does not cross a financial year, one payslip from each month from the employee’s commencement including one covering the 26-week point.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• if the period of employment crosses a financial year, one payslip per month including one covering the 26 week point from the employee’s commencement date, the last payslip for the end of the financial year and the first payslip from the new financial year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **For 52-week claims:** |
| To support your claim, you must provide evidence to demonstrate that your employee has completed 52 weeks of continuous employment with you and must have worked the average hours relevant to a part-time or full-time application. This evidence must include: |
| • if the period of employment does not cross a financial year, one payslip from each month from the employee’s commencement including one covering the 52-week point |
| • if the period of employment crosses a financial year, one payslip per month including one covering the 52 week point from the employee’s commencement date, the last payslip for the end of the financial year and the first payslip from the new financial year. |

The Back to Work Team may contact employers to provide additional payslips to determine minimum hours worked.

**Employee consent form**

An employee consent form (available on the Back to Work website), must be included with later payment claims submitted in QGrants from 1 July 2019.

This form must be completed and signed by the employee the claim is regarding.
Further information

What happens if the program is discontinued?
Advice will be published on the Back to Work website if funding is no longer available or the program has been discontinued.

Privacy and confidentiality
The Terms and Conditions available on the Back to Work website and QGrants set out how information collected as part of the application process will be used by the Queensland Government. Broadly, the information can be used to evaluate, administer, assess, monitor and audit compliance with the eligibility criteria for the program in order to support delivery of the Back to Work program.

Applicants must provide information about their employees for the purposes of assessing eligibility. Employers must declare that they have obtained consent from their employee to disclose personal details for the purposes set out in the privacy statement in the Terms and Conditions.

For further information about the management of personal information, please email the Privacy Contact Officer at corporate.legal@desbt.qld.gov.au

Tax implications
The taxation implications of any payments made to an applicant under the Back to Work program may differ depending on the applicant's personal circumstances. The Queensland Government is unable to provide taxation advice and accordingly we recommend consulting your own professional adviser to determine any taxation implications that may apply.

The Australian Taxation Office has information that may also assist you at www.ato.gov.au For example, guidance in relation to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) treatment of financial assistance payments can be found in GST Ruling 2012/2.

Contact us

Website: qld.gov.au/backtowork
Phone: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)
Email: backtowork@desbt.qld.gov.au