

# Apprenticeship Boost

*Financial support to employ or retain an apprentice*



The following information is provided by the E tū Trades Reference Group as a resource to help members and employers understand the government assistance available for taking on or retaining an apprentice.

This is a summary only and members and employers are encouraged to contact Work and Income NZ (WINZ) for more information.

## What is Apprenticeship Boost?

Our Government understands that it is critically important to support apprenticeship training during this period of pandemic-related business disruption.

We need to ensure New Zealanders can still access an apprenticeship and those already in an apprenticeship have the protection of being retained in paid employment.

'Apprenticeship Boost' is a payment made to employers by WINZ to help employers pay the wages of an apprentice in order to keep apprentices in employment and take on new apprentices.

It means apprentices can keep earning and training towards their qualifications as the economy recovers from the impacts of COVID-19.

There is a time limit on the duration of payments and employers are advised to check the details of payment duration with WINZ.

## How much does the Government contribute?

The payment is made directly to employers on the basis of each apprentice who is employed in year one or year two of a recognised New Zealand apprenticeship qualification (see further detail on who it applies to below).

The payment depends on whether the apprentice is in their first or second year of training and is not applicable to apprentices beyond the second year.

- First year apprentices can get \$1,000 per month (\$12,000 per year).
- Second year apprentices can get \$500 per month (\$6,000 per year).

Government legislation requires that apprentices be paid at least the minimum wage or training wage as applicable (E tū encourages employers to pay at least the minimum wage to first year apprentices and at least the Living Wage of \$22.10 from then on).

## Who does Apprenticeship Boost apply to?

Employers can get the Apprenticeship Boost for apprentices who are:

- engaged in training through an Industry Training Organisation (ITO) or a provider
- training for a NZ Apprenticeship or Managed Apprenticeship recognised by the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC)
- in their first 24 months of training.

*Note: provision is made to recognise apprentices who have changed specific trade qualifications within the same industry and employers are advised to check out relevant details with WINZ.*



## How can you apply for the Apprenticeship Boost?

Employers should go to the WINZ website [www.workandincome.govt.nz](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz) or get advice from their applicable Industry Training Organisation (ITO).

Employers cannot 'double-dip' by getting an Apprenticeship Boost payment at the same time as getting another wage subsidy for the apprentice (such as Mana in Mahi).

## What is Mana in Mahi?

Manu in Mahi (Strength in Work) is another government initiative that helps employers get people into employment and training by providing on-the-job support for employees who are employed in an NZQA-related training plan. This can include, but is not restricted to, a formal trade qualification apprenticeship.

The scheme is also delivered by WINZ and features a range of potential support options, including financial support, tools and equipment, and 'pastoral care'.

Further details on eligibility and available support can be found on the WINZ website.

## What can E tū members do to promote apprenticeship employment?

Recognition of the skills we develop at work, with nationally recognised NZQA-related qualifications, is key to the employment and income security of working people.

Employers need to maintain ongoing skill training to ensure we have the skills available in our workforce to match the demands of our future economy.

Apprenticeship Boost and Mana in Mahi provides effective government support for employers to employ and train people, and to retain apprentices.

If you think your employer can do more, have a talk with your employer about whether they can take on an apprentice and point out the assistance that is available.

***This is a summary of apprenticeship training assistance provided by the E tū Trades Reference Group and further details should be sourced from Work and Income NZ.***

