

# Farm Traineeships in WA

## (Part of the Australian Apprenticeships Programme)



A Traineeship is an employment based training arrangement that combines practical work experience with an employer together with a theory component from a Registered Training Organisation. It is similar to a traditional apprenticeship but of a shorter duration. Trainees are paid a wage by their employer during training and where eligible a living away from home allowance of \$77.17 per week (in the first year) may be paid to trainees by the Australian Government. Employers may also be eligible for Government financial incentive payments starting at \$1250; <http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/employer/incentives.asp>

Usually, trainees commence at the entry level; Certificate 2 in Agriculture (notionally one year full time) and then may progress through to Level 3 which is generally viewed as the 'trade level'. Many sectors now encourage employees on to Level 4 (Muresk Agribusiness Degree entry level) then to the Diploma level and higher. Traineeships have the advantage of providing relevant industry and OH&S skills and nationally recognised qualifications.

Traineeships are not just for young people, anyone from 15 years of age can be employed as a trainee, this may include family members (conditions apply). Trainees don't need to be unemployed and existing employees may be eligible under limited circumstances. There are no specified minimum educational requirements for participation, however, basic literacy and numeracy skills to year 10 standard are recommended. All Trainees and Apprentices in WA pay an hourly tuition fee to their TAFE or private trainer.

Also there are growing numbers of secondary school students in years 11 and 12 who are employed as trainees, generally on a one day per week basis or blocks of employment making up 52 working days each year. School Based Traineeships have become a very popular way to integrate school and industry training. The industry certificates gained contribute to the students WA Certificate of Secondary Education.

- **Rural Skills Australia** - A not for profit industry managed association providing training advice and assistance to industry; unsure of anything, try us! 9752 3665.
- **Australian Apprenticeships Centres (AACs)** - Contracted to the Australian Government to manage Traineeships and Apprenticeships. AACs also manage the employer subsidies. Where eligible subsidies start at \$1250 and can be significantly more. Contact an Australian Apprenticeships Centre or see [www.newapprenticeships.gov.au/employer/incentives.asp](http://www.newapprenticeships.gov.au/employer/incentives.asp)
- **Registered Training Organisations (RTOs)** - TAFE and private training providers, many are contracted to the WA Department of Employment and Training to deliver Traineeships and or Apprenticeships, user choice; contact details next page.
- **Group training Companies (GTC's)** - Optional, employ apprentices and trainees and then place them with host employers. They take care of the paperwork for wages, allowances, workers compensation, superannuation etc; user choice 1800 819 747.

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## Getting Started

Any of the Australian Apprenticeships Centres in your area are able to 'sign you up' (as you can guess there is a fair amount of paperwork!). However many employers first make contact with a training provider to discuss how and when the training will be delivered, this can be totally on the job or a combination of on the job and some college attendance (not during seeding etc!!). For any further information call RSA on 9752 3665

**Training Providers:** These change from time to time, check the WA Department of Education and Training web site for up to date lists of providers registered to deliver Traineeships: [www.apprenticeships.training.wa.gov.au/](http://www.apprenticeships.training.wa.gov.au/)

Agriculture Training Providers	
Central West TAFE (Geraldton/Carnarvon)	9956 6112
CY O'Connor TAFE (Northam, Narrogin, Moora, Merredin)	1800 627 256
Great Southern TAFE (Albany, Katanning)	9892 8771
Curtin University of Technology (Esperance, Kalgoorlie)	9088 6825
Coastal and Rural Training Services	9948-3184
Farm Information Services	9291 8833
Pilbara TAFE	9158 5600
Kimberley College of TAFE	9168 0838
South West TAFE, Bunbury	97807319

**Trainee Wages information:**  
**Department of Consumer and Employment Protection (DOCEP)**  
**Wage Line 1300 655 266**



**New Apprenticeships Centres**  
 Hotline: 1800 639 629  
[www.newapprenticeships.gov.au/](http://www.newapprenticeships.gov.au/)

Perth Metropolitan Area	
AMA New Apprenticeships Centre	08 9273 3042
CCI Employfast	1800 224 224
MEGT	1300 365 022
Mission Australia	1300 626 227
Country Areas	
CCI Employfast – all locations	1800 224 224
Albany	Karratha
Broome	Kalgoorlie
Bunbury	Katanning
Carnarvon	Kununurra
Esperance	Mandurah
Geraldton	Northam
<b>Mission Australia – all locations</b>	<b>1300 626 227</b>
Geraldton	Kalgoorlie
The Apprenticeship and Traineeship Company	
Albany	08 9841 7740
Bunbury	1800 627 188
Busselton	1800 678 001
Mandurah	01800 060 182
Manjimup	08 9725 6565
Narrogin	08 9881 2168 (information only)

