

Apprentice Boost payments

July 2020

Employers can get *Apprenticeship Boost* payments to keep their first and second year apprentices earning and learning

The Government has put together support for employers to keep their apprentices in jobs and training towards their qualifications, and to support the pipeline of skilled workers that New Zealand needs to recover from the economic impact of COVID-19.

Employers can get Apprenticeship Boost payments for eligible apprentices in the first two years of their training programme.

This recognises the first two years are when apprentices need more employer support as they build up their industry skills.

The payments can be paid for eligible apprentices between August 2020 and April 2022.

Eligible apprentices

While this initiative is running, employers can get Apprentice Boost payments for existing and new apprentices who:

- are a New Zealand Apprentice or as a Managed Apprentice (as defined by the Tertiary Education Commission)
- AND
- have been in their training programme for less than 24 months.

A maximum of 20 months of payments can be applied for. It doesn't matter if the apprentice is just starting their training programme or nearing the 24 month mark, they can still get some support.

Apprenticeship Boost payment rates:

First year apprentices: **\$1000 a month**. This rate applies until the apprentice has completed 12 months of their training programme.

Second year apprentices: **\$500 a month**. This rate applies until the apprentice has completed 24 months of their training programme.

The payments can be made for all eligible apprentices between August 2020 and April 2022.

Applying for Apprenticeship Boost payments:

Details of the application process will be added to the Work and Income website as soon as possible. Please check regularly for updates. [Link]

Employers must top up the Apprenticeship Boost payments to ensure their apprentices receive at least the minimum wage that they are legally entitled to.

As an employer you cannot receive the Wage Subsidy Extension and one of the apprenticeship schemes **for the same person for the same period of time.**

Other initiatives

Employers can get payments from either the Apprenticeship Boost initiative, Mana in Mahi, or the Regional Apprenticeships initiative (depending on the needs of the apprentice or pre-apprentice trainee they employ).

Fact sheets are available for Mana in Mahi and Regional Apprenticeships.

More information

More information about Apprentice Boos, including how to apply will be added to the Work and Income website as soon as possible.