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Peta SkujinsDirector
AATIS

The Australian Apprenticeships Schools Guide has been developed to support school staff, including teachers and career advisers. The Schools Guide is an overview of the apprenticeships and traineeships sector. It also provides guidance on how to use our resources in your role and with students.

In developing this resource, we have aimed to create something that you can keep using for many years. The information contained in this book will provide you with a solid foundation to better understand the Australian Apprenticeships sector. Although the Schools Guide covers a range of information for your use, we encourage you to regularly refer to our online information as we regularly update this with new information. You can also follow AATIS communications on social media or through our newsletter to access new information and resources as they are released.

If you have any questions about Australian Apprenticeships, or need support in understanding the sector, our friendly team of experts can help you out. You can find our contact information and newsletter subscription opportunities at aapathways.com.au/contact-us.

Who is AATIS?

aatis.com.au

The Australian Apprenticeships and Traineeships Information Service (AATIS) offers pathways information to students, job hunters, career advisers and employers. Our website and resources are used by schools, parents, friends and supporters providing career planning and direction.

The Australian Apprenticeships Pathways website (AAPathways) is a hub for Australian Apprenticeships information. It provides in-depth information about apprenticeships and traineeships, including over 2,000 sample Job and Training Descriptions, steps on how to find an apprenticeship, industry-based Job Pathways Charts, and Literacy and Numeracy Quizzes. Our up-to-date information and resources are used by networks delivering Australian Apprenticeships support services, including Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (AASN) providers and Group Training Organisations (GTOs).

We are active across online and digital platforms while also providing call, email and messenger support to help people navigate through the Australian Apprenticeships landscape. AATIS is free to use and is funded by the Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

AATIS launched My Pathways Hub account for students and career researchers to browse and save job and training descriptions and quiz results, and replaced the AusApp Pathways app.

2022

2021

AATIS launched the Partners Program to give priority access to industry insiders and advisers to AATIS resources and Australian Apprenticeships news.

The AAPathways site achieved record levels of traffic with an increased number of organisations referring to the site. AATIS adds multiple communication avenues, with a presence on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and enhanced e-newsletter and expanded MyGain channel.

2019-20

2016-170

The AATInfo and AAPathways websites were redeveloped, merged into one, and optimised for access via mobile devices. The AAPathways site had the URL retained and the aatinfo site was 'retired'. The relaunched AAPathways site won numerous awards for design and usability.

AusAppPathways mobile app was launched, providing smartphone and tablet access to the search segment of the AAPathways website.

2015

2014

MyGain YouTube channel was launched featuring apprentices and trainees talking about their job hunting experiences and their job roles.

The Australian Apprenticeships Pathways website was developed and launched in addition to the AATInfo site. The new AAPathways site addressed the public, establishing a search pathway using around 12 broad Industry Groups. The Career Interest Explorer was also developed for this audience. The AATInfo site continued to address 'industry insiders'.

2006

The government changed the name of New Apprenticeships to Australian Apprenticeships. Our Service changed to Australian Apprenticeships and Traineeships Information Service (AATIS).

2003-04

The Service is relaunched as the New Apprenticeships Training Information Service. The website (natinfo.com.au) was relaunched as a data base driven site that generated job descriptors dynamically from user requests. Job Pathways Charts were developed out of the existing 'Training Package Chart' PDFs which reflected the structure of training package qualifications.

Industry Training Australia launches the New Apprenticeship Centre Information Service, including the nacinfo.com.au site, under government funding. The site displayed job roles underpinned by training package qualifications. The Australian Qualification Framework had just been launched, creating an industry-based structure of qualifications at various certificate levels.



Who can do an Australian Apprenticeship?

Anyone of working age and with eligibility to work in Australia can start an apprenticeship or traineeship. Students do not need a secondary school certificate or other qualification before starting, however, employers can set their own requirements when hiring staff. For example, an employer may set a minimum standard of completion of year 11, year 12 or a pre-apprenticeship.

Positions are commonly filled by school students, school leavers and people re-entering the workforce, or by those in the workforce wishing to change careers or gain new skills. To be eligible for an apprenticeship or traineeship a person must be:

- an Australian citizen or
- · a permanent resident or
- a holder of a temporary resident or working visa of sufficient duration to undertake the apprenticeship or traineeship.

It is important to talk through individual circumstances and how they may effect eligibility to start an apprenticeship or traineeship. Contact an Australian Apprenticeship Support Network provider for more details.

What are the benefits of doing an apprenticeship or traineeship?

Undertaking an apprenticeship or traineeship has many benefits as a pathway into a career. These include:

- · Earning a wage while learning
- Developing practical skills specific to the occupation or desired industry
- Experiencing hands-on training and classroom learning
- Gaining a nationally recognised qualification which can provide the basis for further education and training over the course of the apprentice or trainee's working life
- Potentially accessing government financial support and other benefits to assist with the costs incurred whilst undertaking training
- Increasing value as a qualified employee

An apprenticeship or traineeship can be used as a pathway to a higher level qualification, including other vocational education and training qualifications and university qualifications.













Step 1

Research

Discover what apprenticeships and traineeships are all about.

Find out which industry is right for you by checking out the Career Interest Explorer and Work Type Explorer.

Learn more about apprenticeship and traineeship occupations by checking out Job & Training Descriptions.

Create a My Pathways Hub account to save your favourite Job and Training Descriptions.

Step 2

Preparation

Put your knowledge to the test by trying a Literacy & Numeracy Quiz.

Learn about pre-apprenticeships and whether they would be right for you.

Learn about the organisations that are involved throughout an apprenticeship and traineeship, and how the training works.

Find out what wages and entitlements you will get as an apprentice or trainee.

If you are an unemployed job seeker, you should contact your Workforce Australia provider or find a provider who can support you.

Step 3

Job Hunting

Check out the MyGain YouTube channel and talk to family and friends to find out how other people got their apprenticeship or traineeship.

Find out how to research and approach employers to increase your chance of success.

Contact Group Training Organisations and Australian Apprenticeship Support Network providers to see if they have any positions.

Visit job search sites to find advertised vacancies.

Tailor your resume and cover letter for the job you want before you apply.

Step 4

Sign Up

Once you have found an employer who is interested in taking you on as an apprentice or trainee, an Australian Apprenticeship Support Network provider needs to be organised for the sign up.

Once you are signed up, you will start your work as an apprentice or trainee, and your off the job training with a registered training provider.



Who needs to complete a Pre-apprenticeship?

There is no requirement to have completed a preapprenticeship before starting an apprenticeship or traineeship. However, it is important to be aware some industries look more favourably upon people who have completed a pre-apprenticeship.

Occupations such as Electrical and Plumbing which have strict licensing requirements will often look for potential apprentices who have completed a pre-apprenticeship. In some cases, employers who are advertising an apprenticeship opportunity will specify that candidates must have completed a pre-apprenticeship. Advise students to monitor job ads to see whether pre-apprenticeships are in demand in the industry of choice.

There are some industries where completing a preapprenticeship is not as vital, with employers opting to employ people directly into an apprenticeship with no previous training. Go to our Industry Information pages to see if pre-apprenticeships are a common pathway into an apprenticeship opportunity. Speak to employers in the industry to find out if completing a pre-apprenticeship is something they look for in their apprentices.

Advantages of Pre-apprenticeships

- Explore an industry occupation without committing to a full apprenticeship
- Once the program is complete, some providers may provide supported pathways into employment
- Some employers, particularly in the trade industries, have a preference for people who have completed a pre-apprenticeship
- Participants may receive credit for the study completed, which could shorten the time it takes to complete a full apprenticeship

Pre-apprenticeship Finder

Pre-apprenticeships are offered by Registered Training Organisations such as TAFE, private providers and Group Training Organisations. It can be challenging to find relevant pre-apprenticeship information and courses by searching through numerous websites.

Our Pre-apprenticeship Finder compiles courses offered by providers and has a list of pre-apprenticeships which can be searched by industry and location, which can found at aapaathways.com.au/jtd.

While we have numerous pre-apprenticeships listed, the numbers differ based on location and category. If you do not find any search results that fit your criteria, we suggest you contact your local training provider directly.





Benefits of an ASbA

- Get paid while completing studies at school
- May be eligible for government financial assistance
- Might take time off the qualification post high school should students decide to continue with the career path
- Gain experience within the industry to see if it is the right fit for you

Pathway to upskill

Some ASbAs may continue after school, however after completion, students will still be able to go to university, upskill to a higher level qualification or even start thieir own business.

Do students get paid?

Yes! As well as gaining valuable experience and skills, students will get paid a wage. The pay differs by occupations and industries so make sure to read more about Wages and Financial Support at aapathways.com.au/wages.

Does the training contribute to secondary school certificate of education?

It might but the amount of contribution differs for each state or territory and the qualification undertaken. The state or territory education department can assist with further information.

Work hours

Working hours as part of the apprenticeship or traineeship at school are dependent on the laws of the state or territory.

Students will need to discuss their work hours with their school and employer. Visit your state or territory School-based Apprenticeship and Traineeship website for more information about ASbA legislation.

Support services

Working with an employer while studying at school can be quite daunting. It is best for students to approach any problems with a parent or caregiver, the school, employer, AASN provider or Group Training Organisation. You will find more information on post-recruitment support at aapathways.com.au/support.

What if the school doesn't offer school-based apprenticeships and traineeships?

If the school does not offer ASbAs, encourage students to look at Vocational Education and Training in school (VETiS) or subjects that lead into their occupations of interest. This will help students prepare for an apprenticeship or traineeship once they leave school.







Who can do a Higher Apprenticeship?

Anyone who is eligible to do an Australian Apprenticeship can also do a higher apprenticeship. Employers may have their own specific eligibility criteria, such as having completed a relevant high school certificate.

Higher apprenticeships are becoming more popular for school graduates, with employers recruiting entry level staff then training them through a higher apprenticeship. This allows the employer to train their staff with skills to fit the organisation.

Starting a higher apprenticeship after completing school allows the apprentice or trainee to develop industry-specific skills, gain a formal qualification that can be used as a pathway into university if the student desires, while earning a wage.

How do I find a Higher Apprenticeship job?

Like any apprenticeship or traineeship, opportunities start with an employer deciding to use this way to employ their staff. The How to Find an Apprenticeship page has information on some of the most common ways to find an employer.

There are a number of different higher apprenticeship programs happening across Australia, and the employers participating in these will usually promote the programs on their website. Employers may only recruit once a year, so you should do some research to find employers who may be recruiting, then continue to check their websites and social media so you know when they have roles available.



earn an income at school





Content writing

aapathways.com.au/contact-us

AATIS information and resources are designed for use in schools, to ensure that careers advisers, teachers, students and parents always have accurate information and quality resources. If your school is looking for content for your website, newsletter or other forms of communication, we are here to help.

You are welcome to use content and information from the AAPathways website, remembering to link back to the original source. This includes blog posts and news articles. If this content doesn't suit your needs, get in touch with the team to find out how we can help you with content.

We are always looking for ideas for information and resources, so if there is something you think would be useful in the Australian Apprenticeships space, let us know.

Blog

aapathways.com.au/blog

The AAPathways blog is where the AATIS team and industry experts discuss key trends in the Australian Apprenticeships sector. Visit the blog for regular updates and discussion pieces. If there is a topic you want to hear more about make sure to let us know in the comments, or get in touch via email or phone.

Recommended links

aapathways.com.au/recommended-links

In addition to the resources for career advisers in this guide, we have a key links section on our AAPathways website which summarises the essential resources that should be recommended to career researchers.

Newsletters

aapathways.com.au/contact-us

To stay up-to-date with new resources and for all the latest updates in the Australian Apprenticeships sector, be sure to subscribe to our newsletters. To keep information easy to access we've created separate newsletters, one for our industry insiders and another for students, career researchers and job hunters.

Industry insiders newsletter

Our Industry Insider Newsletter is for those that work in the industry, including careers advisers and teachers. Here we share qualification updates, new resources, and important announcements made by key organisations in the sector. This newsletter will also keep you up-to-date on any upcoming events that we are running, or webinars for which you can register.

Careers bulletin

Our Careers Bulletin is specifically created for those who are learning about apprenticeship career pathways or wish to commence an apprenticeship or traineeship. This bulletin contains employment opportunities, and key links and resources from AATIS and industry partners. Career advisers should encourage students and parents to subscribe for tips on job hunting and career research.







My Pathways Hub

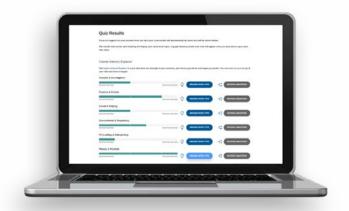
aapathways.com.au/register/prime

To support discussions with students and career researchers, AATIS has made the process of finding and storing Australian Apprenticeships information simpler. The My Pathways Hub (MPH) is a tool on AAPathways that helps to facilitate a custom user journey, whereby users can choose the information and resources that they would like to save, allowing for quick and easy future access.

AATIS invites students and career researchers, as well as people working within the Australian Apprenticeships space to register for a My Pathways Hub Account.



Save AATIS Quiz results



Save Career Interest Explorer results



Track results over time



POLICY

Australian Parliament

Approves and sets Vocational Education and Training (VET) legislation for regulators.

Skills Ministers

The federal, state and territory Skills Ministers have responsibility for skills and training policy in their jurisdictions. Skills Ministers collaborate on items of national importance through the Skills Ministers' Meeting and National Cabinet Skills Committee.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Assurance Body

Responsible for assessment of training products against standards and policies set by Ministers.

Jobs and Skills Councils

Responsible for industry engagement in the VET sector, including workforce planning, training product development, and industry stewardship.

IMPLEMENTATION

Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA)

The national regulator for the VET sector who regulates courses and training providers to ensure nationally approved quality standards are met.

Victorian Registration and Qualification Authority (VRQA)

Apply standards to education and training providers and accredit courses and qualifications in VIC only.

Training Accreditation Council Western Australia (TACWA)

Responsible quality assurance and recognition of VET services in WA only.

USERS

Registered Training Organisations (RTOs)

VET service provider that train enrolled students, apprentices and trainees from Certificate I to Advanced Diploma.

Students

Students, including apprentices and trainees, undertake nationally registered training training at RTOs.

POLICY & PLANNING

Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR)

Oversees and implements related contracts, legislation, incentives and funding arrangements.

State Training Authorities

Government departments responsible for the operation of Australian Apprenticeships in their own state or territory. This includes the VRQA and TACWA.

IMPLEMENTATION

Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (AASN) providers

Free services that support the matching of potential Australian Apprentices and employers, check the eligibility of Australian Apprentices, manage some incentives, and provide in-training support.

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Australian Apprentice or Trainee

Work with an employer while undertaking training at an RTO. Develops skills to become a qualified worker through on and off the job training.

Employer

Creates a position for an apprentice or trainee to commence. Pays the apprentice or trainee and provides the on the job training.

Group Training Organisations (GTOs)

Recruit apprentices and trainees, places them with host employers and provides ongoing support.

Parent or Guardian

Needed for approval and signing of any legal and binding contracts if the person is under 18 years old and provides ongoing support.

Schools

Approves and allows apprentice or trainee to start while studying at school. Arranges school, work and training schedules. Works closely with RTO and employer.



Career advisers connecting with employers

aapathways.com.au/career-advisers

An important step in starting a career through an Australian Apprenticeship is sourcing an opportunity with an employer. This is essential as apprenticeships and traineeships require both educational and on-the-job work experience.

Career advisers play an important role connecting prospective apprentices with potential employers. Students may often seek out their career advisers not only as a source of information, but also to leverage networks to help land a job opportunity in their desired field.

To do this, it is important for career advisers to maintain a strong network with local and diverse employers to help promote apprenticeships and traineeships as a viable career path. A strong network helps apprentices to gain access to potential employers and future career or work experience opportunities.

Some simple ways career advisers can create and maintain connections with employers are:

- Engaging with local and national industry events
- Attending webinars that target employers and following up with other attendees
- Using the school community to connect with local employers
- Linking their school with local employers for work experience
- Connecting with Group Training Organisations (GTOs) or Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (AASN) providers

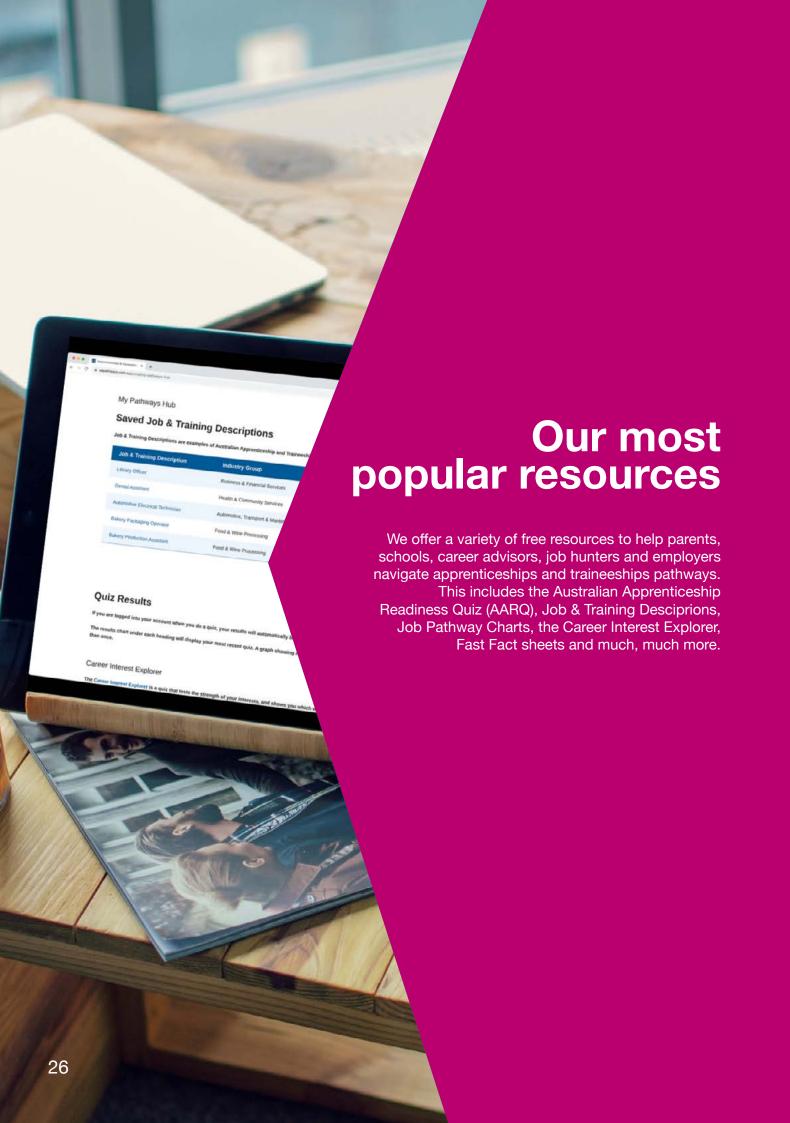
We advise all career advisers to be clear on what they need from employers before connecting with them at events or within the local community. This helps to cement valuable connections and fast-track mutually beneficial employment opportunities. If an individual employer is unable to help directly, we also recommend pursuing any connections they may have who may be a better fit for your potential apprentice or trainee.

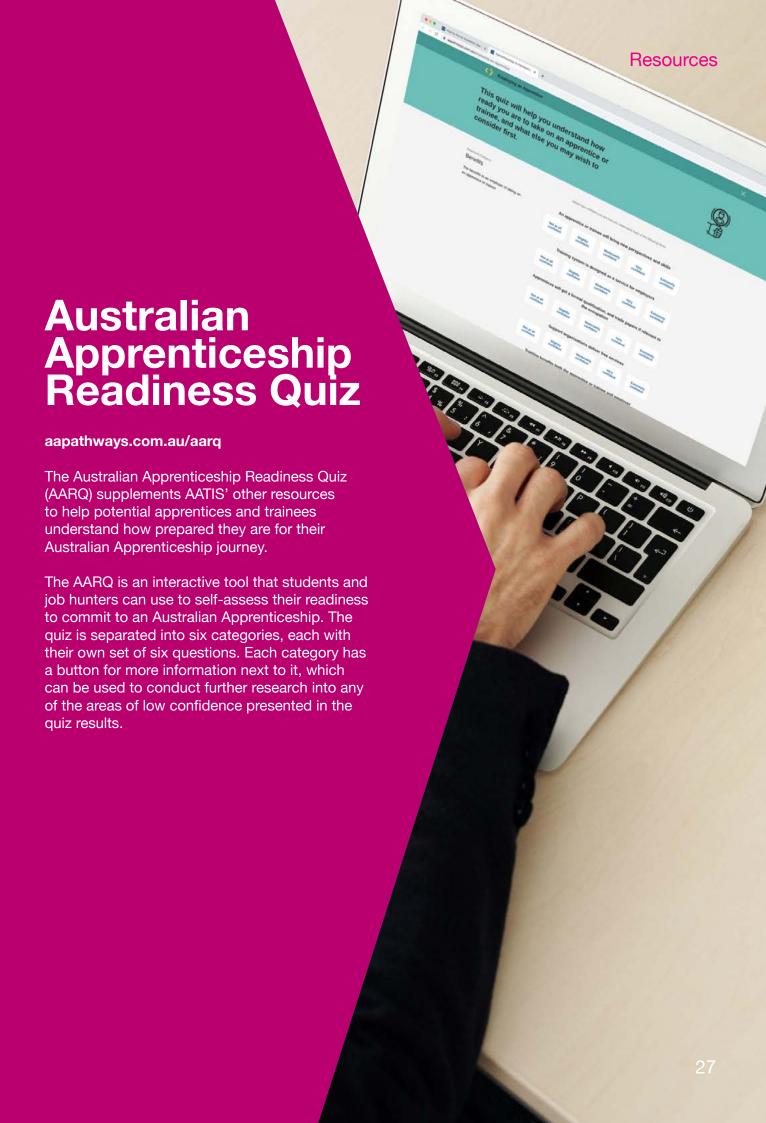
Connecting with GTOs and AASNs is an important step in providing Australian Apprenticeships information and opportunities to your students. They can help with careers events at the school and will have current vacancies your students can access. If you have not already connected with your local providers, you should get in touch to ask how they can support you.

Building knowledge and understanding employers

No matter the trade or industry, every employer will have certain expectations of those they choose to take on. Ideally, employers and business owners are looking to engage school students and school leavers who are passionate about their career path and are ready to work in a team.

For students looking to enter an Australian Apprenticeship, it is important they can demonstrate how they can add value to an employer's business while learning their role. Career advisers can be instrumental in preparing students to be ready for the responsibilities and realities of work experience or an apprenticeship, particularly in the early stages. They also play a significant role in matching suitable school leavers with the right position by ensuring students are aware of skills and knowledge needed to step into a VET pathway.







Career Interest Explorer

aapathways.com.au/cie

The Career Interest Explorer quiz helps students identify their career interests in vocational fields. The quiz allows students to answer work type related questions, requiring them to indicate their interest in activities associated with different types of work environments.

The results of the quiz indicate the strength of interest in each of the seven work types. Students can then explore occupations and industries related to these work types.

This quiz is best used with students who are in the early stages of exploring their career options. identify work interests

browse work type

explore industries

Work Type Explorer & Industries

aapathways.com.au/explorer

The Work Type Explorer helps students discover Job and Training Descriptions within their selected work types.

Explore industry profiles that demonstrate the broad range of industries in which an Australian Apprenticeship can be undertaken. Use the work type filter to find industries specifically related to the student's interest.

See information about the key organisations involved in the industry, with links for further research. Students can also understand the future of the industry through the employment and wage data.

find a career

interest-based search

industry specific data

practice aptitude quizzes industry specific questions interactive online quizzes

Literacy & Numeracy Quizzes

aapathways.com.au/Inq

Our Literacy and Numeracy Quizzes are short, online interactive quizzes illustrating the literacy and numeracy levels required when undertaking Australian Apprenticeships qualifications for various industries.

Practice Aptitude Quizzes

aapathways.com.au/paq

The Practice Aptitude Quizzes are longer more detailed pdf versions of the same quizzes which can be taken offline. They are useful resources for students to gauge whether they possess the literacy and numeracy skills to enter the industry of their choice. The online quizzes include next steps information related to their score. This could include focusing on some industry specific skills, or starting job hunting.



publish job opportunities.







AATIS Videos

AATIS videos showcase a range of content and resources useful for career researchers and job hunters alike. Our videos cover a range of topics including overviews of our resources, Job of the month features and regular recordings of our webinars. We also produce personal stories from apprentices and trainees around the country about their chosen career path and how they found their Australian Apprenticeship.

Our video content can be found on our YouTube MyGain channel and across the AAPathways website. We regularly update and review all the video content to ensure it is kept up-to-date and accurate.



Join us as we discuss the latest Australian Apprenticeships news, research and data updates, and host panel sessions with experts. You can catch up on our latest webinar sessions by visiting **mygain.com.au**.



Watch and listen as Australian Apprentices tell their stories. Our interviews on the MyGain YouTube channel are an ideal way to show students the many pathways that can lead to different future career outcomes.



You can contribute to our channel! We are always looking for new candidates to share their career journey. If you know someone who would like to share their story **contact us** at contact@aatis.com.au.



Trends in Australian Apprenticeships

AATIS collates data about the qualifications approved as an Australian Apprenticeships for each state and territory, and how many apprentice and trainees commence into each qualification.

Commencements into Australian
Apprenticeships are strongly affected by
overall economic conditions. The most popular
apprenticeship industries and occupations
typically remain unchanged even when the
number of commencements have decreased.

Top industries for Australian Apprenticeships are:

- Construction
- Business Services
- Community Services
- Electrotechnology
- Travel, Tourism and Hospitality

Data about Australian Apprenticeships can be found throughout the AAPathways website. Take a look at the Job and Training Descriptions and Industry Information pages to find out more about the trend in commencements, graduate outcomes, and overall growth for that industry.

Factors affecting successful completion

Australian Apprentices who complete their training are more likely to be employed and have higher wages compared with those who do not complete. In some industries, outcomes for Australian Apprentice graduates can be similar to or better than those of university graduates.

In 2023, AATIS is undertaking research on the factors that lead to successful completions of Australian Apprenticeships. This will be published on the AAPathways website when complete.

Some things that are known to influence successful completion include:

- The apprentice or trainee having a strong understanding of the occupation prior to commencement
- Suitable literacy, numeracy and digital skills for the occupation and industry
- Having support from family, friends, and colleagues to undertake the apprenticeship or traineeship



Information sessions

aapathways.com.au/events

Our face-to-face information sessions are designed for people working within the sector to be able to use AATIS resources to aid career conversations with students and job hunters. We regularly run sessions around the country, highlighting new resources.

Webinars

In addition to information sessions and conference appearances, AATIS runs frequent online webinars. Varying in topics, we aim to cover a range of areas that help explain the current Australian Apprenticeship sector and issues around skilled employment and sustainability of Australia's workforce.

To hear more about our upcoming webinars, sign-up to our newsletter and also keep an eye on the events page on the AAPathways website.

Want to hear more about a particular topic?

We are always looking to hear from our users about issues that they might require more information on. If there's a topic you want AATIS to cover, please contact us with your suggestion.

The AATIS team presents professional development sessions for staff and at conferences. If you are interested in organising a session, get in touch to discuss your needs and AATIS availability.

Marketing orders

aapathways.com.au/marketing-materials

We have a range of free materials that schools can handout to students and parents interested in Australian Apprenticeships. To order the handouts online, please use the link above or get in touch at marketing@aatis.com.au.

News and events

aapathways.com.au/news

Our News section will help you stay on top of any changes and updates in the sector. News articles are regularly published by our subject matter experts discussing key aspects of the sector.

Contact service

aapathways.com.au/contact-us

At AATIS we proudly provide information on apprenticeships and traineeships through numerous platforms. For any queries, please contact us on our free call hotline, by dialling 1800 338 022. You can also submit a question at our contact service on the AAPathways website and we will respond as soon as possible.

While we cover general information regarding the apprenticeship sector, we advise you to contact FairWork for information regarding wages and entitlements, and an Australian Apprenticeship Support Network provider for incentives, eligibility and queries. Our Australian Apprenticeships Schools Guide is printed on recycled paper. We would love for you to share our guide, but we highly encourage you to make use of our online Schools Guide version that can be easily shared as a pdf via your digital channels. As we try to reduce our environmental impact, we would request you to be mindful about handing out printed copies.

The digital version of this guide can be easily accessed at aapathways.com.au/schools-guide





For more information contact:

Australian Apprenticeships & Traineeships Information Service

Phone: 1800 338 022

Email: contact@aatis.com.au

www.aatis.com.au

If you have any questions about this guide, please email us at contact@aatis.com.au

We are always seeking for ways to collaborate on and disseminate reliable Australian Apprenticeship Pathways information. The best way to stay in touch is to subscribe to our newsletter through the contact-us page on the website or by emailing us.

The Australian Apprenticeships and Traineeships Information Service is funded by the Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.









