

Skills Tasmania Policy Statement - Exception:

Employer Eligibility: Subsidising Employees of Government Organisations – Apprentices and Trainees

Intent

Under the *Policy Statement Employer eligibility – subsidising employees of government*, government agencies are ineligible to access government subsidised training for their employees, including the Apprentice and Trainee Training Fund (User Choice).

This position was established in recognition that Government agencies are provided budget to manage workforce development and training. Their use of government-subsidised training funded through Skills Tasmania would distort efficient resource allocation of government revenue and represents a net competitive advantage over employers who rely on private sector revenue.

The Tasmanian Government is a signatory to the National Partnership on Skilling Australians Fund (NPSAF), which aims to boost commencements of apprentices and trainees. Payments are made only on successful attainment of milestones. The NPSAF ends in June 2022.

Scope

This Exception applies only to:

- Skills Tasmania's Apprentice and Trainee Training Fund (User Choice), and
- Tasmanian Government agencies.

Exception

Tasmanian Government agencies are eligible to access government subsidised training for their employees through the Apprentice and Trainee Training Fund (User Choice).

In 2019, there were 127 commencements of apprentices/trainees who were employees of the State Government. This represents a significant component of Tasmania's NPSAF targets.

In the absence of government subsidies through Skills Tasmania, there is a risk that some Government Agency based apprenticeships and traineeships will not proceed. Reduced uptake could impact on Tasmania's ability to meet its commitments under NPSAF. If this were to occur, it would risk NPSAF funding to Tasmania.

Continuing to enable Government agencies to access government subsidised training for their employees for the purpose of apprenticeships or traineeships supports a policy priority of Tasmania's training and workforce development system.

Duration of Exception

This exception will continue for the duration of the NPSAF – expected to expire on 30 June 2022.

All communications must clearly identify that this position is an exception to usual Skills Tasmania policy and that it will be reviewed by June 2022.

Definitions

Government agencies General Government Sector Agencies are listed in schedule 1 of the *Financial Management Act 2016*. General Government Sector entities include government departments, legislative agencies, statutory offices and some State authorities.

Comparable entities at the Australian Government level are considered Government agencies.

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