

## Self-Employment Assistance

### Small business support for talented freelancers and creative professionals

If you have a business idea or an existing business, **you may be eligible to access free support from Workforce Australia Self-Employment Assistance (Self-Employment Assistance)**. Self-Employment Assistance can help you make a business plan that sets you on a path to financial independence, while remaining independent with flexible working and creative conditions.

Self-Employment Assistance can help talented Australians in the cultural and creative sectors, including, irregular or project based and freelance workers, by turning their creativity and skills into an income through starting and running a small business.

#### Mutual Obligation Requirements

If you're participating in Workforce Australia, you can earn:

- **25 points per week by participating in the program's small business training**, with no minimum job search
- **20 points per week for participating in a workshop.**

**You won't have mutual obligation requirements if you undertake small business coaching.** You don't need to receive income support to access Self-Employment Assistance.

#### What self-employment services are available?

Self-Employment Assistance offers 6 services that you can access at different times, getting the help you need, when you need it:

- Exploring Self-Employment Workshops
- Small Business Training
- Business Plan Development
- Business Advice Sessions
- Business Health Checks
- Small Business Coaching

Small Business Coaching participants can receive a \$300 reimbursement to assist with your eligible business costs. If you're eligible, you can also receive a Self-Employment Allowance for up to 39 weeks and Self-Employment Rental Assistance for up to 26 weeks.

For more information about these services, visit [www.workforceaustralia.gov.au/individuals/training/activities/self-employment-assistance](http://www.workforceaustralia.gov.au/individuals/training/activities/self-employment-assistance).

#### Who can access Self-Employment Assistance?

To be eligible, you must:

- be at least 15 years of age (18 years of age for Small Business Coaching)
- working outside of your business and/or studying for less than 25 hours per week
- be permitted by law to work in Australia (excluding working holiday and student visas)
- not be an undischarged bankrupt.

If you're already self-employed or have a business idea, your local Self-Employment Assistance provider will work with you to assess if your business or business idea is eligible.

Find your nearest Self-Employment Assistance provider: [www.workforceaustralia.gov.au/individuals/coaching/providers](http://www.workforceaustralia.gov.au/individuals/coaching/providers), or contact the Department of Employment and Workplace Relation's National Customer Service Line on **1800 805 260** or at [NationalCustomerServiceLine@dewr.gov.au](mailto:NationalCustomerServiceLine@dewr.gov.au).

### **If you need help with this fact sheet**

If you need an interpreter, call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on **131 450\***.

If you're deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment, you can use the National Relay Service: [www.relayservice.gov.au](http://www.relayservice.gov.au).

**\*Call charges apply when calling '13' numbers from mobile phones.**

#### **Example scenario**

Aurelio enjoys embroidery. He's recently started to sell his products through his sister's stall at the local market. He isn't sure if his embroidery is considered a hobby or a business but wants to earn more money from his work.

Aurelio registers with his local Self-Employment Assistance provider to get support preparing a business plan. He then carries out that business plan and starts, or continues, selling his products through an online platform to reach new markets.

He also decides to access small business coaching through Self-Employment Assistance.