

# WHAT IS WAGE ASSISTANCE?



**Wage Assistance is a payment given to Australian employers as an incentive to give an ongoing job to an unemployed Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.**

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR WAGE ASSISTANCE?

To be eligible, the Indigenous job seeker must be unemployed and actively looking for work.

If they are 21 years of age or older they must be receiving an eligible income support payment. They can be a CDEP participant. If they are under 21 they do not need to be receiving an income support payment.

## HOW MUCH IS WAGE ASSISTANCE?

The subsidy is worth up to \$4400 over 26 weeks for a full-time ongoing job of at least 35 hours per week, or \$2200 for a part-time job of at least 15 hours per week.

## CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

Jobs must operate under a normal employer-employee relationship, traineeship or apprenticeship under an Australian or State government award or a formal workplace agreement. Contractors, or employees solely on piece work or commission are not eligible.

## HOW TO APPLY FOR WAGE ASSISTANCE

The employer should apply within 28 days of the person starting the job. You can get an application form from the Indigenous Employment Line on **1802 102** or apply online at **[www.wageassistance.gov.au](http://www.wageassistance.gov.au)**.

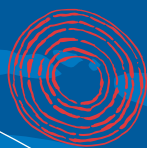
## FURTHER INFORMATION

You can get further information from the Indigenous Employment Line on **1802 102** or **[www.wageassistance.gov.au](http://www.wageassistance.gov.au)**.

## WAGE ASSISTANCE AT A GLANCE

- paid to employers who give an ongoing job to an unemployed Indigenous job seeker
- the job seeker can be a CDEP participant or registered with Centrelink or a Job Network member as actively seeking work
- up to \$4400 is paid over 26 weeks for a full-time job or \$2200 for a part-time job of at least 15 hours per week
- jobs must be ongoing and paid under a recognised award or agreement





## WAGE ASSISTANCE IN ACTION

### KRISTY MASON

Sister and brother Tiffany McTaggart and Jay Shepherdson run their own real estate business in Muswellbrook, NSW.

They said that one of the best things about getting help through the Wage Assistance programme is how simple it is.

Tiffany said that when they first advertised that they were starting a new business and looking for staff they were contacted by 19-year-old Kristy Mason.

“Kristy started calling us as soon as we advertised that we were starting a new business,” said Tiffany. “We were very impressed because she kept calling us about the job. We talked to her and then she showed us her Wage Assistance card—that was the clincher.”

Tiffany said she is very happy with Kristy who is now doing a 12-month clerical training course, and would use the Wage Assistance programme again.

“Starting a small business is hard and so any help is really good. The Wage Assistance form is very simple and once I filled it in and sent it back, the payments started arriving,” she said.

Tiffany said she would definitely use the Wage Assistance programme again.



Jobs Careers Future

To find out about this programme,  
check out [www.workplace.gov.au/indigenous](http://www.workplace.gov.au/indigenous),  
[www.wageassistance.gov.au](http://www.wageassistance.gov.au)

OR CALL: 1802 102