

Share and share alike

By easing the burden of employment costs, one group training organisation is helping Indigenous job seekers and the community.

Apprentices Trainees Employment Limited (ATEL) is a community based group training organisation that provides apprentices, trainees and skilled labour to businesses in Albury, Wodonga, Wagga Wagga, Wangaratta, Sydney and surrounding areas.

ATEL works closely with job seekers, local schools and businesses to help match the right people to the right job.

To assist local businesses and community organisations with the ongoing costs of employment, and to help Indigenous job seekers find employment, ATEL utilises the Wage Assistance program.

The Wage Assistance Program was established in 1999 as part of the Indigenous Employment Policy, and is managed by the Australian Government department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

Wage Assistance provides an incentive to employers to provide ongoing employment for eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander job seekers by offering salary subsidies to employers who take on eligible Indigenous apprentices, trainees and other employees.

"We access the Wage Assistance program because it reduces overall costs for our host employees, which in turn benefits the community," says Kristy Meacham, a Field Officer with ATEL in Wagga Wagga.

"For instance, the programs currently being run by the Wagga PCYC, where Aaron now works, are able to run for longer because the costs of employing staff are reduced."

ATEL Wagga Wagga hopes to help other local organisations give more back to the community by employing job seekers who are eligible for Wage Assistance.

Why not speak to your local Job Network member or CDEP organisation about how Wage Assistance might be able to help you get a job? It might just give you that edge that a potential employer is looking for.



➔ Aaron (top right corner) helps some local kids out with their homework at the Wagga PCYC.



An Australian Government Initiative

For more information visit www.workplace.gov.au/indigenous

OR CALL: 1802 102

Job tip of the month

Need help to get your foot in the door? Wage Assistance is there to help you.

Are you are Indigenous, currently unemployed and looking for work? Your next employer could be eligible to receive Wage Assistance.

Wage Assistance is available to help unemployed Indigenous people get a job. It pays employers up to \$4400 for ongoing full-time jobs or \$2200 for part-time jobs.

These payments cover costs to the employer like equipment, wages, uniforms or training. All you need to do is apply for a job and tell the employer that you have a Wage Assistance card that

will help them cover some of the costs involved in employing you.

You can register for Wage Assistance at Centrelink or through a Job Network member.

To find more information about Wage Assistance, call 1802 102 or visit www.wageassistance.gov.au