

# Leon is cooking up a storm

For Leon, Wage Assistance has helped to realise his dream.



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Leon Rowe,  
Apprentice  
Chef, Jagad's  
Epicurian  
Emporium

Twenty-year-old Leon Rowe is an apprentice chef with Jagad's Epicurian Emporium at Innisfail. He got this job because of the Wage Assistance subsidy.

Before starting with Jagad's, Leon was unemployed. When he registered with Centrelink, he was told the subsidy may be paid once he began work.

Neato Employment Services Innisfail approached Jeffrey Baines, the owner of Jagad's, to find out whether he would be interested in employing Leon.

"Neato Employment Services told me about Wage Assistance. In fact, I think that they brought it to my attention with Leon in mind," said Jeffrey.

Jeffery decided to give Leon a trial to see whether he was suitable for the job and to make sure he liked working with Jagad's. Within a week he was hired full-time.

In the short time Leon has been with Jagad's he has learned a lot and has gained a lot of confidence in his abilities.

"Leon is progressing very well. He listens and learns things very quickly. I am moving him into areas of extra responsibility in my business," said Jeffrey.

"I've also taken Leon to cooking demonstrations attended by local Indigenous school children to show them what can be achieved," he said.

Jeffery said getting Wage Assistance was not difficult and he was helped a lot by the Job Network member and Centrelink.

"I am very happy with the level of service I received from both Neato and the department. The staff in both instances were very helpful and courteous.

Wage Assistance has been a great benefit to our business," he said.

Leon said that he is glad he got the job at Jagad's because he enjoys the work and learning new skills.

"The work can be a bit exhausting at times but it's worth it. It makes the day so much more satisfying when you work really hard and everyone is having fun and working at the same time. It's probably one of the best parts of the job."

Leon has many goals and dreams, which he is working hard to accomplish.

"I would like to complete my traineeship and eventually own my own restaurant and employ others," he said.

## 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.

Find out how Wage Assistance can benefit your business by visiting [www.wageassistance.gov.au](http://www.wageassistance.gov.au).

You can even apply online!