



Australian Government

# New Business Assistance

with NEIS

## New Business Assistance with NEIS\*

If you have an idea for starting your own small business, you may be eligible for New Business Assistance with NEIS.

New Business Assistance with NEIS provides personalised support to help you become a self-employed business owner.

There are 8,600 places available nationally each year, delivered by a network of 21 NEIS providers.

### How does New Business Assistance help?

New Business Assistance can help you by providing:

- accredited small business training
- personalised mentoring and support from a NEIS provider in the first year of the new business to help put the business idea into practice
- NEIS Allowance for up to 39 weeks and NEIS Rental Assistance for up to 26 weeks (if eligible).

### Am I eligible for New Business Assistance?

You can participate in New Business Assistance if you:

- are at least 18 years of age when starting your new business
- are not prohibited by law from working in Australia
- are not an overseas visitor on a working holiday or an overseas student studying in Australia
- are available to participate in NEIS training (if relevant) and work full-time in your proposed new Business
- have not participated in NEIS in the past year
- are not an undischarged bankrupt.

### What business ideas can receive assistance?

Your NEIS provider will assess your business idea to ensure it meets the business eligibility criteria.

This means your proposed business:

- cannot already be operating on a commercial basis
- has an independent structure
- is lawful and capable of withstanding public scrutiny
- has been assessed as commercially viable by your NEIS provider
- will be established, located and operated solely within Australia
- is structured so you have and maintain a controlling interest over the NEIS business while participating in New Business Assistance with NEIS.

### How do I access New Business Assistance?

You can directly approach a NEIS provider located in your area. You can find a list of NEIS providers on the *Find a Provider* page on [jobactive.gov.au](http://jobactive.gov.au).

Alternatively, you can contact your local jobactive, ParentsNext or Disability Employment Services provider to discuss if New Business Assistance is right for you.

### NEIS training

NEIS training helps you achieve a nationally recognised qualification. This is a Centrelink approved activity for up to 13 weeks.

A NEIS provider will refer you to the appropriate training based on the business you are planning. These are:

- Certificate III in Micro-Business Operations, or
- Certificate IV in New Small Business.

During the training, you will develop a Business Plan which will need to be approved by your provider.

## Business mentoring and support

Business mentoring and support is an essential part of New Business Assistance with NEIS. You will receive business mentoring during the first year of operating your new business.

Business mentors are people with business experience who provide assistance and advice about organisational, financial and marketing issues to help you develop your business.

## NEIS Allowance

If you receive a Department of Human Services (DHS) or Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) income support payment, you may be eligible to receive NEIS Allowance for up to the first 39 weeks of business operation. This is subject to you meeting the obligations under your NEIS Participant Agreement.

The NEIS Allowance is equivalent to the single, 22 or over, no children rate of Newstart Allowance. It is paid fortnightly in arrears.

Your new business must be your primary, full-time activity. You can receive income from outside your new business (such as from investments or other work). If your external income is greater than twice the basic rate of NEIS Allowance in a given financial quarter, it may affect the amount of your NEIS Allowance.

If you receive certain DHS or DVA income support payments you may be able to choose to remain on these while participating in New Business Assistance with NEIS.

## NEIS Rental Assistance

You may also be eligible to receive NEIS Rental Assistance. This is a fixed rate payment for a period of 26 weeks from the date you first receive NEIS Assistance.

To be eligible for NEIS Rental Assistance you must have been receiving DHS or DVA rental assistance before you start receiving NEIS Allowance.

## What are my obligations when participating in New Business Assistance with NEIS?

You are required to:

- undertake NEIS training
- operate your new business in accordance with your Business Plan and
- meet all the terms of your NEIS Participant Agreement.

If you want to change the way your business operates (such as the location or hours of operation), you must discuss these changes with your NEIS provider before you take any action.

If you make any changes to your business operating arrangements without approval, your NEIS Allowance payments may be suspended (if relevant) and/or your NEIS Participant Agreement may be terminated.

## Want more information?

- Go to [jobs.gov.au/neis](https://jobs.gov.au/neis)
- Find your local NEIS provider on the *Find a Provider* page on [jobactive.gov.au](https://jobactive.gov.au)
- Talk to your jobactive, ParentsNext or Disability Employment Services provider or call the Employment Services Information Line on 13 62 68<sup>^</sup>

## Do you need help with this fact sheet?

If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450<sup>^</sup> and ask for the Employment Services Information Line on 13 62 68<sup>^</sup>.

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, you can use the National Relay Service. For more information, visit [www.relayservice.com.au](https://www.relayservice.com.au).

*<sup>^</sup>Note that call charges apply for calls to '13' numbers from mobile phone*