

Workforce Australia - Self-Employment Assistance

Information for Veterans

Are you interested in self-employment?

You may be able to access Self-Employment Assistance while still serving in the Australian defence Force (ADF). Once you have a transition date, talk to a provider in your area and your commanding officer.

Partners and adult children of serving ADF personnel (with or without a transition date) may also access Self-Employment Assistance.

Self-Employment Assistance

Self-Employment Assistance can help you start and run a small business.

Self-Employment Assistance can help you:

- consider self-employment
- decide on a business idea and check if it will work
- develop a business plan, or
- get a business up and running

What does Self-Employment Assistance offer?

Self-Employment Assistance offers four free services to Veterans and their family members. You can select from one of these or do all of them.

Exploring Self-Employment Workshops can give you information about self-employment, and then help you to generate and test business ideas. These workshops usually involve five sessions that are delivered over one or two weeks. The workshops should help you make an informed decision about whether you want to pursue self-employment.

Small Business Training provides you with the skills you need to start and run a small business. You can access accredited training flexibly and choose to do a shorter skillset or a longer Certificate III or IV in Entrepreneurship and New Business.

Business Plan Development can help you to prepare a viable business plan to help your business succeed. A comprehensive business plan will help you to identify strategies for success and forecast your business' cash flow for 2 years into the future. Your Self-Employment Assistance provider can then assess your business plan and provide independent feedback on your business' likely viability.

Small Business Coaching provides business mentoring for up to 12 months. Over the course of a year, you will be connected to a business mentor who will keep in touch with you to give you guidance, coaching and other business support. You can also receive a \$300 reimbursement to assist with your eligible business costs (such as business insurance). If 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.dese.gov.au/self-employment-assistance.

Who can access Self-Employment Assistance?

To be eligible to access Self-Employment Assistance you must:

- be at least 15 years of age
- not be prohibited by law from working in Australia
- not be an overseas visitor on a working holiday visa or an overseas student studying in Australia
- not be an undischarged bankrupt, and
- have a confirmed transition date out of the Australia Defence Force (ADF) (not applicable for family members of ADF personal).

More information about Self-Employment Assistance

A list of providers is available on the Workforce Australia website at www.workforceaustralia.gov.au/individuals/coaching/assistance. Simply enter the suburb or postcode and choose 'Self-Employment Assistance' under the heading provider type.

You can also find more information about Self-Employment Assistance and other Workforce Australia self-employment programs by visiting www.dese.gov.au/employment/support-self-employment.

Alternatively, you can call the Department of Education, Skills and Employment's National Customer Service Line on 1800 805 260.

Other resources to help small businesses?

- The **SelfStart** online hub provides information to guide people through the first stages of starting a business. SelfStart is at: <https://jobsearch.gov.au/selfstart>.
- The **Starting a Business Guide** is a step-by-step tool that helps new business owners understand what's ahead when starting a business. It can be accessed at: business.gov.au/Guide/Starting.
- **Entrepreneurship Facilitators** provide free practical help to people starting and running a business in 23 locations around Australia.

Information about the program is available at: www.dese.gov.au/entrepreneurship-facilitators.

Need help with this fact sheet?

If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask for the National Customer Service Line on 1800 805 260, or visit www.tisnational.gov.au.

If you are deaf, or having a hearing or speech impairment, you can use the National Relay Service. For more information, visit www.infrastructure.gov.au/national-relay-service.