



Australian Government

New Business Assistance

with NEIS

New Business Assistance with NEIS*

The New Business Assistance with NEIS program can help you become a self-employed business owner.

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

How does NEIS help?

NEIS can help you by providing:

- accredited small business training
- personalised mentoring from a NEIS provider
- NEIS Allowance for up to 39 weeks and NEIS Rental Assistance for up to 26 weeks (if eligible).

Am I eligible for NEIS?

You can participate in NEIS 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 the required hours in your proposed new business
- have not participated in NEIS in the past year
- are not an undischarged bankrupt.

What business ideas can receive help?

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

This means your proposed business:

- is either not currently operating on a commercial basis or is an existing micro-business owner/sole trader seeking to refocus their business in response to COVID-19
- 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 NEIS.

How do I access NEIS ?

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 jobsearch.gov.au/service-providers/

You can also contact your local jobactive, ParentsNext or Disability Employment Services provider or the Department of Education, Skills and Employment's National Customer Service Line to discuss if NEIS is right for you.

NEIS Training

NEIS training helps you achieve a nationally recognised qualification.

Based on the business you are planning, a NEIS provider will refer you to appropriate training which may be either a:

- Certificate III in Entrepreneurship and New Business, or
- Certificate IV in Entrepreneurship and New Business.

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

Business mentoring

Business mentoring is an essential part of 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 Services Australia 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 you starting your NEIS business. This is subject to you meeting the obligations under your NEIS Participant Agreement.

NEIS Allowance is equivalent to the single, 22 or over, no children rate of JobSeeker payment. It is paid fortnightly in arrears. NEIS Allowance is designed to ensure your rate of payment is not affected by the earnings you make through your NEIS business.

Your new business must be your primary 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.

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 Services Australia or DVA rental assistance before you start receiving NEIS Allowance.

Education Entry Payment

Services Australia offers the Education Entry Payment once a year (\$208) to help with the cost of studying or training, including NEIS Training. You may receive the Education Entry Payment if you have had one or more income support payments from Services Australia in the last 12 months.

What are my obligations when participating in NEIS?

You are required to:

- undertake NEIS training (if relevant)
- 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 NEIS 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 dese.gov.au/neis
- Find your local NEIS provider on the *Find a Provider* page on jobsearch.gov.au/service-providers/
- Talk to your jobactive, ParentsNext or Disability Employment Services provider or call the National Customer Service Line on 1800 805 260^

Do you need help with this fact sheet?

If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450^ and ask for the National Customer Service Line on 1800 805 260^.

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.

^Note that call charges apply for calls from mobile phone