

Indigenous Business Grants Program

Guidelines

Get support to upskill

Australia's renewable energy future needs many skills in the supply chain. If you're a small Aboriginal business, training people can be costly. That's why ACEN Australia is offering grants to help Indigenous businesses upskill their employees.

Whether you're just starting or growing your team, these grants can help you take part in the supply chain to build and operate renewable energy projects.

What you can get

1. Up to \$5,000 (excluding GST) to be applied towards the cost of training in skills that can be used in, or to support, the renewable energy sector
2. Funding is available on an ongoing basis - apply anytime
3. You can apply more than once, but the total funding provided by ACEN Australia cannot exceed \$5,000 (excluding GST)

Who can apply

To be eligible, your business must:

1. Be at least 50% Aboriginal-owned, controlled and managed; and meet one of the following criteria:
 - a) Be registered with one of the following organisations:
 - NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce
 - Supply Nation
 - Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations
 - Another recognised body that registers Indigenous-owned or operated businesses
 - b) If your business is not registered with any of the above, you must provide a letter of endorsement from a local Aboriginal organisation or Elders group confirming your business is Aboriginal-owned, controlled and managed.
2. Have an active, registered ABN
3. Be small (fewer than 15 employees and less than \$10 million annual turnover)
4. Be located in the NSW Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone
5. Already contribute to, or want to contribute to, renewable energy projects (including support services like transport, catering, cleaning, logistics, etc.)

What training is covered

Funding can be used to enrol your employees (including sole traders and/or their employees) in nationally recognised training delivered by a Registered Training Organisation (RTO). The training must be listed on the Australian Government's National Training Register: <https://training.gov.au/>

Examples of eligible training areas:

- Electrical fitting and mechanics
- Mechanical engineering
- Plant and machine operations
- Scaffolding and rigging
- Power line installation and maintenance
- Safe work practices
- Warehousing and logistics
- Cleaning and security services
- Food hygiene
- Surveying
- Pest and weed control

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How to apply

1. Complete the application form
2. Attach a quote from the RTO for the proposed training
3. Email your application to joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au
4. Wait for confirmation from ACEN Australia that you have received any funding before enrolling in training

Conditions

1. **Important Note:** businesses must pay for the training upfront. ACEN Australia will reimburse the approved amount after the proposed training is completed.
2. To facilitate payment of the approved amount by ACEN Australia, you must provide within eight weeks of finishing the training:
 - a) Evidence of completed training (e.g. certificate of completion or record of attendance);
 - b) A valid tax invoice for the amount of the approved funding; and
 - c) A completed 'Vendor Set Up Form' (to be provided by ACEN Australia), including supporting bank account information as set out in the 'Vendor Set Up Form'.
3. The availability and amount of any funding is discretionary and to be determined by ACEN Australia.
4. ACEN Australia is entitled to request such information as required to verify the information you have provided in your application form.
5. If successful, you may be invited to be part of a marketing program run by ACEN Australia to help promote the funding program.

We know that applying for a grant can be daunting for some organisations and we are happy to help with any aspect or any questions in relation to the application process. If you want to apply, but are not sure how, or if you have any questions when preparing your application, please contact Joey Chalk, ACEN Australia Indigenous Participation Manager joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au