

Self-Employment Assistance

Small business support for Veterans

Are you interested in starting your own business?

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.

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

The program has an additional 150 places to ensure veterans and their families have access to workshops.

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

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 free services to veterans and their family members. You can select from one of these or do all of them.

Exploring Self-Employment Workshops offer information about becoming self-employed and help you generate and test business ideas.

These workshops usually involve five sessions, delivered over one or two weeks. The workshops will help you make an informed decision about pursuing 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 will help you 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. Your Self-Employment Assistance provider can then assess your business plan and provide independent feedback on your business' likely viability.

Business Advice Sessions offer personalised advice relating to your business idea or existing business. Each session is delivered over the course of an hour, and you can access a maximum of 2 sessions a year.

Small Business Coaching provides tailored business mentoring for up to 12 months. Over the course of a year, you will be connected to a business mentor who will maintain contact with you and provide guidance and support throughout this 12 month period of running your own business.

As a Small Business Coaching participant, you can also claim \$300 reimbursement to assist with your eligible business costs.

Who can access Self-Employment Assistance?

As a veteran or family member who is eligible to access Self-Employment Assistance you must:

- be at least 15 years of age (18 years of age for Small Business Coaching)
- be permitted by law to work in Australia
- not be an undischarged bankrupt, and
- family members of serving ADF members must be able to identify their relationship to the serving member; or
- Serving ADF members must have a confirmed transition date from the ADF.

If you're already self-employed or have a business idea, your local Self-Employment Assistance provider will work with you to assess if your business or business idea is eligible.

More information about Self-Employment Assistance

For more information on Workforce Australia Self-Employment Assistance and other self-employment programs, visit:

www.dewr.gov.au/employment/support-self-employment

To find a provider in your area, enter your postcode at:

www.workforceaustralia.gov.au/individuals/coaching/providers and choose 'Self-Employment Assistance' under provider type.

Alternatively, you can call the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations National Customer Service Line on 1800 805 260.

Other resources to help small businesses

Steps to starting your own business – SelfStart guides are available to step you through the basics for starting a business.

The guides also link to other resources, tools and support to help you succeed:

www.workforceaustralia.gov.au/individuals/coaching/starting-business/guides

Entrepreneurship Facilitators provide free and practical advice in 23 locations around Australia, to people starting and running a business.

More information is available at:

www.workforceaustralia.gov.au/individuals/training/activities/entrepreneurship

Other services and support

Visit www.veteransemployment.gov.au/ for resources, case studies and information on services to assist veterans move into the civilian workforce.

Need help with this fact sheet?

If you need an interpreter, call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on **131 450***.

If you're deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment, you can use the National Relay Service: www.relayservice.gov.au

**Call charges apply when calling '13' numbers from mobile phones*