



# Funding Guidelines: South Australian Group Training Program and GTO Boost 2026-28

## Part 1: Overview

### 1. Purpose

These guidelines apply to the South Australian Group Training Program (SAGTP) and the GTO Boost for the period of 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2028. This document outlines the funding arrangements, eligibility criteria, and operational requirements for both initiatives.

The new funding parameters for SAGTP and GTO Boost will more closely align to priority cohorts and National Skills Agreement (NSA) priority areas, supporting improved completions for under-represented cohorts, and targeting SA Government funding to where it will have the most impact.

### 2. Budget Allocations and Management

The Group Training Organisation (GTO) funding initiatives outlined in this document are administered by Skills SA on behalf of the Minister for Education, Training and Skills.

While these guidelines govern a two-year period, funding allocations and eligibility are managed on an annual, year-on-year basis as detailed below. Funding for each program is managed under separate, independent budget allocations and is subject to availability.

Funding Period	National Standards Registration Deadline	Budget Allocation
Year 1: 2026-27	Prior to 1 Jul 2026	FY 2026-27 Budget
Year 2: 2027-28	Prior to 1 Jul 2027	FY 2027-28 Budget

To assist GTOs with intake planning, Skills SA will track expenditure against the annual allocation for each program and provide formal notifications when the budget for the active financial year reaches the following milestones:

- 50% of the annual budget expended
- 75% of the annual budget expended
- 90% of the annual budget expended
- 100% of the annual budget expended (program closed for the remainder of that financial year)

### 3. Eligibility

To be eligible for funding detailed in these guidelines, GTOs must:

- Have capacity to deliver group training services to specific industries and targeted equity groups.
- Maintain active registration against the **National Standards for Group Training Organisations** in South Australia prior to the registration deadline for the relevant funding year (as specified in the table above).

Eligible GTOs may be a for-profit or not-for-profit organisation.

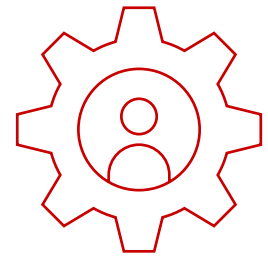
### 4. Definitions and Interpretation

The following definitions apply throughout these guidelines:

**Aboriginal:** This document uses the term 'Aboriginal' to refer to people who identify as: Aboriginal; Torres Strait Islander; or both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. This usage is preferred by Aboriginal South Australians.

**Apprenticeship:** A qualification declared as a trade by the South Australian Skills Commission (SASC) under the *South Australian Skills Act 2008* (SA).

**NSA Traineeship:** A qualification declared as a vocation by the South Australian Skills Commission under the *South Australian Skills Act 2008* (SA) that directly aligns with one or more of the agreed national priorities identified under the National Skills Agreement (NSA). A list of NSA Traineeships can be found in Schedule A.



## Part 2: SAGTP Guidelines

The SAGTP is a South Australian Government initiative that aims to maintain or increase completion rates of apprentices and trainees in the group training sector by supporting the provision of pastoral care arrangements and the placement of apprentices and trainees with host employers.

### 1. Funding Parameters

Funding for participating GTOs is calculated based on Training Contract activity registered between **1 July 2026 and 30 June 2028**, as sourced from internal Skills SA records (mySkillsSA).

From 1 July 2027, total funding allocations will include an additional loading to account for annual Consumer Price Indexing (CPI) adjustments. GTOs will be advised of the CPI loading amount in July 2027.

All payments are subject to budget availability and will conclude for the relevant financial year if the program is fully subscribed prior to 30 June of that year.

#### 1.1. Funding Schedule

Payment type	Apprenticeship rate (\$)	NSA-Traineeship rate (\$)
<b>Commencement</b>	350	350
<b>Progression</b>	550	N/A
<b>Completion</b>	900	550
<b>Anchor Funding</b>	A fixed transitional funding allocation provided to eligible GTOs to support operational stability during the transition to the target group funding model. Refer Section 3 Anchor Funding for details.	

### 2. Training Contract Eligibility

#### 2.1. Qualifications

Training Contracts in the following Vocational Education and Training courses are eligible:

- All Apprenticeships
- NSA-Traineeships

Training Contracts in Higher Education qualifications (e.g. Degree Apprenticeships) are not eligible.

#### 2.2. Target Groups

Target groups for the purpose of the SAGTP are those apprentices and trainees who (according to the Training Contract) are:

- **Women** in apprenticeships
- **School-based** learners at commencement in apprenticeships.
- **Adult learners** (aged 21 years or above) at commencement in apprenticeships and NSA-traineeships.
- **Aboriginal** learners in apprenticeships and NSA-traineeships
- Persons with **disability** in apprenticeships and NSA-traineeships.

#### 2.3. Milestones

**Commencements:** Payments will be made for eligible **Target Group** commencements that occur between 1 July 2026 and 30 June 2028.

**Progressions:** A progression payment will be made for eligible **Target Group** apprentices who successfully reach the 12-month milestone of their Training Contract between 1 July 2026 and 30 June 2028. If an eligible Training Contract is suspended during the first 12 months, the milestone date will be extended by the duration of the suspension. In these instances, eligibility for the progression payment triggers once the revised 12-month milestone has been achieved.

**Completions:** Payments will be made for eligible **Target Group** completions that occur between 1 July 2026 and 30 June 2028.

### 3. Anchor Funding

This 2026-28 iteration of funding will require increased targeting of priority cohorts. To support operational stability during the transition to target-group funding model, eligible GTOs will receive a baseline allocation called Anchor Funding. This funding is designed to assist GTOs with broader operational and pastoral care costs, to contribute to offsetting expenses for Training Contract activity that falls outside the prescribed Target Groups but has historically been captured under previous guidelines.

#### 3.1. Calculation and Allocation

Anchor Funding is a fixed financial allocation managed annually across the 2026-27 and 2027-28 financial years, subject to budget availability.

The specific funding amount allocated to an individual GTO is determined by Skills SA. It is calculated using a formula based on the percentage of total program funding received by the GTO over the preceding two-year period.

Skills SA will calculate these baseline figures from internal SA Government records and notify eligible GTOs of their specific Anchor Funding allocation within their Funded Activities Annexure.

### 4. Regional loading

A regional loading applies to apprentices and trainees who have attracted a commencement, progression and/or completion payment as described above. The regional loading is based on the residential address of the apprentice or trainee as stored in mySkillsSA.

Regions have been identified by Skills SA based on the **Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Statistical Geography Standard: Remoteness Structure**.

#### 4.1. Regional loading rates

Regional Accessibility	Loading applied (%)
Highly Accessible Metro	0
Highly Accessible Regional	+10
Accessible	+20
Moderately Accessible	+50
Remote	+280
Very Remote	+280



## 5. Payment milestones

Funding support is specified in contractual documentation ('Funded Activities Annexure'), which will be issued to GTOs via Adobe Sign. Skills SA will make payments to each eligible GTO according to the schedule below.

### 5.1. Payment schedule

Financial Year	Milestone Batch	Activity Period	Payment By
<b>Year 1 (2026-27)</b>	Quarter 1	1 Jul 2026 – 30 Sep 2026	30 Oct 2026
	Quarter 2	1 Oct 2026 – 31 Dec 2026	29 Jan 2027
	Quarter 3	1 Jan 2027 – 31 Mar 2027	30 Apr 2027
	Quarter 4	1 Apr 2027 – 30 Jun 2027	31 Aug 2027
<b>Year 2 (2027-28)</b>	Quarter 1	1 Jul 2027 – 30 Sep 2027	31 Oct 2027
	Quarter 2	1 Jul 2027 – 31 Dec 2027	31 Jan 2028
	Quarter 3	1 Jul 2027 – 31 Mar 2028	30 Apr 2028
	Quarter 4	1 Jul 2027 – 30 Jun 2028	31 Aug 2028

Skills SA will provide the GTO with a report identifying commencements and completions eligible for SAGTP prior to each payment.

## 6. Reporting

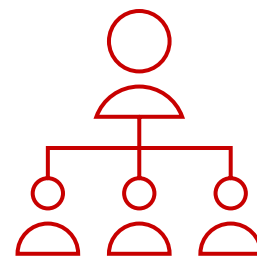
### 6.1. GTO reporting schedule

GTOs must provide Skills SA with completed reports according to the schedule below.

The Progress Report template will be provided to the GTO upon execution of the Funded Activities Annexure.

The Acquittal Report must be submitted at the end of the two-year period, or at the point the GTO exits the program should that be earlier.

Due Date	Report
<b>2026-27</b>	
<b>30 Apr 2027</b>	2026-27 Progress Report
<b>2027-28</b>	
<b>28 Apr 2028</b>	2027-28 Progress Report
<b>13 Oct 2028</b>	Acquittal Report - Template will be provided by Skills SA to the GTO by <b>30 September 2028</b> .



## Part 3: GTO Boost Guidelines

The GTO Boost is a South Australian Government initiative designed to support GTOs, apprentices, trainees, and host employers with a focus on retention, engagement and new opportunities across targeted groups.

The initiative enables GTOs to offer a reduced charge-out rate of \$100 per week per apprentice or trainee for a period of twelve months, totalling \$5,200 per new Training Contract commencement.

### 1. Funding Parameters

Funding for participating GTOs is calculated based on Training Contract activity registered between 1 July 2026 and 30 June 2028, as sourced from internal Skills SA records (mySkillsSA).

A maximum of 450 Training Contracts annually will attract the GTO Boost. This includes any new commencement or re-commencement. Training Contracts may be full-time or part-time.

#### 1.1. Funding Schedule

Payment type	Payment amount (\$)
Commencement	1,300
3-month milestone	1,300
6-month milestone	1,300
9-month milestone	1,300

### 2. Training Contract Eligibility

#### 2.1. Qualifications

Training Contracts in the following Vocational Education and Training courses are eligible:

- All Apprenticeships
- NSA-Traineeships

Training Contracts in Higher Education qualifications (e.g. Degree Apprenticeships) are not eligible.

#### 2.2. Target Groups

Target groups for the purpose of the GTO Boost are those apprentices and trainees who (according to the Training Contract) are:

- Women in apprenticeships
- Adult learners (aged 21 years or above) at commencement in apprenticeships and NSA-traineeships
- Aboriginal learners in apprenticeships and NSA priority-traineeships.

#### 2.3. Milestones

- **Commencements:** Payments will be made for eligible Target Group commencements that occur between 1 July 2026 and 30 June 2028.
- **3-month milestone:** A payment will be made for eligible Target Group apprentices and trainees (including part-time) who commence their Training Contract and successfully reach the three-month milestone, between 1 July 2026 and 30 June 2028.
- **6-month milestone:** A payment will be made for eligible Target Group apprentices and trainees (including part-time) who commence their Training Contract and successfully reach the six-month milestone, between 1 July 2026 and 30 June 2028.
- **9-month milestone:** A payment will be made for eligible Target Group apprentices and trainees (including part-time) who commence their Training Contract and successfully reach the nine-month milestone, between 1 July 2026 and 30 June 2028.

### 3. Payment milestones

Funding support is specified in contractual documentation ('Funded Activities Annexure'), which will be issued to GTOs via Adobe Sign.

Skills SA will make payments to each eligible GTO according to the schedule below.

#### 3.1. Payment schedule

At the beginning of each month, until June 2028, Skills SA will

- Provide list of eligible Training Contracts to the GTO (Skills SA monthly report).
- Upon confirmation from the GTO, process payments for all eligible Training Contracts.

By the 15th day of each month:

- The GTO should receive the funding.
- The GTO will pass the GTO Boost funding on to the host employer as a \$100 per week reduction on their charge out rate. When a Training Contract first appears on Skills SA's monthly report, GTO may make payment in arrears to host employer as a lump sum and commence the weekly reduction thereafter.

Noting that the GTO Boost funding is capped at 450 Training Contract commencements annually, GTOs must not confirm funding eligibility with a host employer for a given apprentice/trainee until **after** the associated Training Contract appears in the Skills SA monthly report.

Only Training Contracts that appear on Skills SA's monthly report meet the eligibility criteria to attract funding.

Financial Year	Milestone Batch	Activity Period	Payment By (or as close to)
<b>Year 1 (2026-27)</b>	Quarter 1	1 Jul 2026 – 30 Sep 2026	<b>15 Oct 2026</b>
	Quarter 2	1 Oct 2026 – 31 Dec 2026	<b>15 Jan 2027</b>
	Quarter 3	1 Jan 2027 – 31 Mar 2027	<b>15 Apr 2027</b>
	Quarter 4	1 Apr 2027 – 30 Jun 2027	<b>15 Aug 2027</b>
<b>Year 2 (2027-28)</b>	Quarter 1	1 Jul 2027 – 30 Sep 2027	<b>15 Oct 2027</b>
	Quarter 2	1 Jul 2027 – 31 Dec 2027	<b>15 Jan 2028</b>
	Quarter 3	1 Jul 2027 – 31 Mar 2028	<b>15 Apr 2028</b>
	Quarter 4	1 Jul 2027 – 30 Jun 2028	<b>15 Aug 2028</b>

#### Example 1:

##### Continuous placement of Apprentice/Trainee

A GTO hires Daisy as an apprentice on 1 July 2026, and receives \$1,300 from Skills SA through GTO Boost funding.

By 1 September 2026, Daisy is still employed by the GTO and has reached the three-month milestone of her Training Contract. As a result, the GTO receives an additional \$1,300 from Skills SA.

Daisy remains placed with the host employer for at least 52 weeks.

By the 12-month milestone, 30 June 2027, the GTO should have passed on the full \$5,200 to the host employer, equating to a \$100 per week discount on its charge out rate.

#### Example 2:

##### Interrupted placement of Apprentice/Trainee

A GTO hires Alan as a trainee on 1 July 2026, and receives \$1,300 from Skills SA through GTO Boost funding.

Four weeks into his employment, Alan and the GTO mutually agree to terminate his Training Contract. The GTO will not receive an additional \$1,300 as the Training Contract did not reach the three-month milestone.

The GTO is expected to have passed on a total of \$400 to the host employer (equating to \$100 per each active week of the Training Contract). The remaining \$900 must be returned to Skills SA during the financial acquittal process.

## 4. Terms and conditions

- 4.1. If an eligible Training Contract commencing between 1 July 2026 and 30 June 2028 is withdrawn or terminated before a payment milestone date, the GTO will receive no further milestone payments.
- 4.2. If an eligible Training Contract is suspended during the first 12 months, the next payment milestone date will be extended by the duration of the suspension, and the GTO will only be eligible for the milestone payment once the new milestone date passes.
- 4.3. If the GTO received a milestone payment for a Training Contract that is terminated, withdrawn or transferred, the GTO must return any funds not expended for the purpose outlined in these guidelines (i.e., \$100 charge-out rate reduction per each active week of the Training Contract). Unexpended funds must be returned to Skills SA during the financial acquittal process.
- 4.4. South Australian Government agencies that are a host employer under a GTO arrangement are not eligible to receive the Charge Out Rate Reduction.
- 4.5. Staff members employed directly with the GTO are not eligible to receive the Charge Out Rate Reduction.
- 4.6. The GTO must retain evidence that Charge Out Rate Reduction funds were passed on to eligible employers as per the guidelines. Charge out rate invoices (supplied by the GTO to an eligible host employer) must identify the charge out rate reduction amount, the name of the applicable apprentice or trainee, and the name of the program (i.e. GTO Boost).
- 4.7. Skills SA will monitor GTO activity during and at completion of the program. From time to time, Skills SA may audit GTO payments made under the program and seek evidence that the funding guidelines have been complied with as part of the financial acquittal process.
- 4.8. Funding is subject to budget availability and will conclude if the program is fully subscribed prior to 30 June of each financial year.

## SCHEDULE A: NSA-Traineeships

In addition to all apprenticeships, the below NSA traineeships will attract funding through SAGTP and GTO Boost. The NSA traineeships cover qualifications in the following key priority areas: Sustaining essential care services, Supporting net zero transformation, Sovereign capability and food security, Digital and technology capability, and Delivering Housing Supply.

Eligibility extends to any superseded or replacement versions of the below qualifications listed on the most current [Traineeship and Apprenticeship Pathways Schedule](#).

Qualification Code	Qualification Name
22603VIC	Certificate IV in Cyber Security
AHC20122	Certificate II in Agriculture
AHC20324	Certificate II in Production Horticulture
AHC20422	Certificate II in Horticulture
AHC20520	Certificate II in Arboriculture
AHC20624	Certificate II in Parks and Gardens
AHC20724	Certificate II in Nursery Operations
AHC20919	Certificate II in Sports Turf Management
AHC21024	Certificate II in Conservation and Ecosystem Management
AHC21124	Certificate II in Irrigation
AHC21216	Certificate II in Rural Operations
AHC21325	Certificate II in Shearing
AHC21425	Certificate II in Wool Handling
AHC21624	Certificate II in Landscaping
AHC30122	Certificate III in Agriculture
AHC30224	Certificate III in Dairy Production
AHC30324	Certificate III in Rural and Environmental Pest Management
AHC30422	Certificate III in Pork Production
AHC30522	Certificate III in Poultry Production
AHC30624	Certificate III in Production Horticulture
AHC30722	Certificate III in Horticulture
AHC30824	Certificate III in Arboriculture
AHC31024	Certificate III in Parks and Gardens
AHC31124	Certificate III in Nursery Operations
AHC31324	Certificate III in Sports Turf Management
AHC31424	Certificate III in Conservation and Ecosystem Management
AHC31824	Certificate III in Beekeeping
AHC32424	Certificate III in Irrigation Technology
AHC32822	Certificate III in Rural Operations
AHC33025	Certificate III in Wool Clip Preparation
AHC33125	Certificate III in Advanced Wool Handling
AHC33325	Certificate III in Feedlot Operations
AHC40122	Certificate IV in Agriculture

Qualification Code	Qualification Name
AHC40324	Certificate IV in Production Horticulture
AHC40422	Certificate IV in Horticulture
AHC40624	Certificate IV in Nursery Operations
AHC40924	Certificate IV in Conservation and Ecosystem Management
AHC41024	Certificate IV in Agribusiness
AHC41124	Certificate IV in Irrigation Management
AHC41325	Certificate IV in Wool Classing
AHC42021	Certificate IV in Landscape Construction Management
AMP30516	Certificate III in Meat Processing (Slaughtering)
AMP30622	Certificate III in Meat Processing
BSB50820	Diploma of Project Management
CHC32015	Certificate III in Community Services
CHC33021	Certificate III in Individual Support
CHC40421	Certificate IV in Youth Work
CHC41115	Certificate IV in Employment Services
CHC42021	Certificate IV in Community Services
CHC43015	Certificate IV in Ageing Support
CHC43121	Certificate IV in Disability Support
CHC43215	Certificate IV in Alcohol and Other Drugs
CHC43315	Certificate IV in Mental Health
CHC43415	Certificate IV in Leisure and Health
CHC50421	Diploma of Youth Work
CHC51015	Diploma of Counselling
CHC51122	Diploma of Financial Counselling
CHC52021	Diploma of Community Services
CHC62015	Advanced Diploma of Community Sector Management
CPC20120	Certificate II in Construction
CPC30320	Certificate III in Concreting
CPC30420	Certificate III in Demolition
CPC30920	Certificate III in Scaffolding
CPC40120	Certificate IV in Building and Construction
CPC40320	Certificate IV in Building Project Support
CPP30519	Certificate III in Technical Security
CPP30821	Certificate III in Fire Protection Inspection and Testing
CPP41721	Certificate IV in Surveying and Spatial Information Services
FBP20521	Certificate II in Wine Industry Operations
FBP30121	Certificate III in Food Processing
FBP30921	Certificate III in Wine Industry Operations
FBP31121	Certificate III in High Volume Baking
FWP20322	Certificate II in Timber and Wood Products Operations

Qualification Code	Qualification Name
FWP30322	Certificate III in Timber and Wood Products Operations
FWP30920	Certificate III in Timber Frame or Truss Manufacture
FWP31220	Certificate III in Timber Systems Design
HLT20121	Certificate II in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care
HLT30121	Certificate III in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care
HLT33021	Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance
HLT33115	Certificate III in Health Services Assistance
HLT35021	Certificate III in Dental Assisting
HLT37015	Certificate III in Sterilisation Services
HLT37215	Certificate III in Pathology Collection
HLT37315	Certificate III in Health Administration
HLT40121	Certificate IV in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care
HLT40221	Certificate IV in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice
HLT43021	Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance
HLT45021	Certificate IV in Dental Assisting
HLT47015	Certificate IV in Sterilisation Services
HLT47321	Certificate IV in Health Administration
HLT47815	Certificate IV in Optical Dispensing
HLT54121	Diploma of Nursing
HLT57715	Diploma of Practice Management
ICP20120	Certificate II in Printing and Graphic Arts
ICP31220	Certificate III in Printing
ICP31320	Certificate III in Print Binding, Finishing and Packaging
ICT20120	Certificate II in Applied Digital Technologies
ICT30120	Certificate III in Information Technology
ICT40120	Certificate IV in Information Technology
ICT41219	Certificate IV in Telecommunications Engineering Technology
ICT50220	Diploma of Information Technology
ICT60220	Advanced Diploma of Information Technology
MAR30824	Certificate III in Maritime Operations (Marine Engine Driver Grade 2 Near Coastal)
MAR30924	Certificate III in Maritime Operations
MEA20418	Certificate II in Aeroskills
MEA30118	Certificate III in Aircraft Surface Finishing
MEM20105	Certificate II in Engineering
MEM30119	Certificate III in Engineering - Production Systems
MEM30522	Certificate III in Engineering - Technical
MEM50222	Diploma of Engineering - Technical
MEM50822	Diploma of Applied Technologies
MSL30122	Certificate III in Laboratory Skills
MSL40122	Certificate IV in Laboratory Techniques
MSL50122	Diploma of Laboratory Technology
MSL60122	Advanced Diploma of Laboratory Management
MSM20116	Certificate II in Process Manufacturing
MSM21122	Certificate II in Recreational Vehicle Trade Pathways

Qualification Code	Qualification Name
MSM30116	Certificate III in Process Manufacturing
MSM30216	Certificate III in Surface Preparation and Coating Application
MSM31022	Certificate III in Recreational Vehicle Service and Repair
MSM31122	Certificate III in Recreational Vehicle Manufacturing
MSS40322	Certificate IV in Competitive Systems and Practices
MST30519	Certificate III in Leather Production
MST31022	Certificate III in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles
PMA30120	Certificate III in Process Plant Operations
PMB30121	Certificate III in Polymer Processing
RII20120	Certificate II in Resources and Infrastructure Work Preparation
RII20220	Certificate II in Surface Extraction Operations
RII20420	Certificate II in Underground Metalliferous Mining
RII20720	Certificate II in Civil Construction
RII20920	Certificate II in Drilling Operations
RII30120	Certificate III in Surface Extraction Operations
RII30320	Certificate III in Underground Metalliferous Mining
RII30420	Certificate III in Resource Processing
RII31820	Certificate III in Drilling Operations
RII40120	Certificate IV in Surface Extraction Operations
RII40720	Certificate IV in Civil Construction
RII50120	Diploma of Surface Operations Management
SFI20119	Certificate II in Aquaculture
SFI20319	Certificate II in Seafood Post Harvest Operations
SFI30119	Certificate III in Aquaculture
SFI30319	Certificate III in Seafood Post Harvest Operations
SFI30419	Certificate III in Fisheries Compliance
SFI40219	Certificate IV in Seafood Post Harvest Operations
TAE40122	Certificate IV in Training and Assessment
TLI20421	Certificate II in Supply Chain Operations
TLI22321	Certificate II in Rail Customer Service
TLI30122	Certificate III in Mobile Crane Operations
TLI30325	Certificate III in Supply Chain Operations
TLI31222	Certificate III in Driving Operations
TLI37122	Certificate III in Rail Infrastructure
TLI40324	Certificate IV in Supply Chain Operations
TLI40724	Certificate IV in Mobile Crane Operations
TLI42622	Certificate IV in Train Driving
TLI50224	Diploma of Logistics
UEE20720	Certificate II in Data and Voice Communications
UEE21920	Certificate II in Electronics
UEE40420	Certificate IV in Electrical - Instrumentation
UEE50520	Diploma of Electronics and Communications Engineering