



Landcare Notes

Using labour market programs

The environmental and community benefits of Landcare work mean your group could be eligible sponsors in the Government's labour market programs.

This Landcare Note outlines what the labour market programs are and some information on how you might get involved.

What a labour market program is

Labour market programs are usually funded by the government and targeted at the unemployed people and young people.

Their aim is to promote employment rather than just providing income support and they're designed to help unemployed or economically disadvantaged workers move into the workforce. This can be done by helping with their job search, improving their work habits, or boosting their work-related skills, motivation and confidence.

'Work for the Dole' is an example of a labour market program under the Australian Government's Department of Employment. Work for the Dole Coordinators work to identify suitable Work for the Dole activities for job seekers.

Your group is in a great position to take advantage of such programs if it suits your goals and work scheduling.

How to do it

There is a network of Work for the Dole Coordinators across Australia who will work with you to identify suitable Work for the Dole activities which are of benefit to the community.

Those agencies are the first point of contact for anyone – such as a Landcare group – who is interested in employing people under these programs.

Becoming a Work for the Dole host

As a Work for the Dole host organisation, you can get access to extra sets of hands to undertake activities and projects that may not normally get done.

By hosting activities you can help job seekers gain the skills, experience and confidence they need to move off welfare and into a job.

As a Work for the Dole host, you will provide work-like activities for Work for the Dole participants.

Your Work for the Dole Coordinator or jobactive provider can help you determine the projects that participants complete.

You will need to provide participants with supervision and any on-the-job training and monitor their attendance.

You must also ensure that your activity meets all relevant work health and safety requirements.

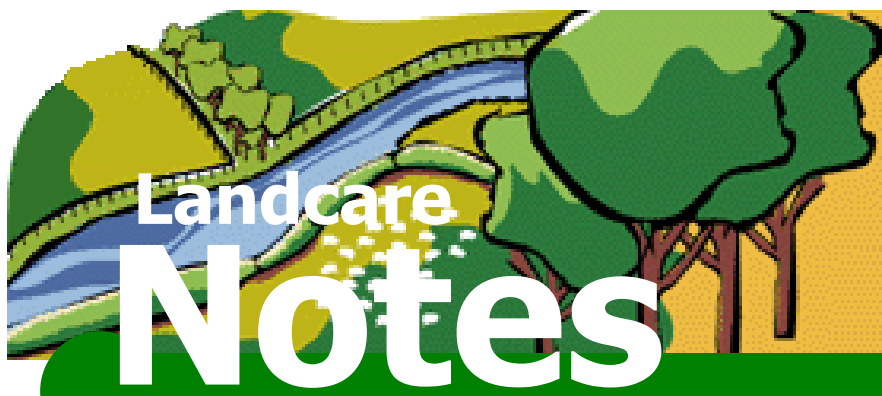
Job seekers continue to receive income support and assistance from their jobactive provider during Work for the Dole.

Green Army

This program is particularly valuable to Landcare groups. The Green Army is a six-month programme for 17-24 year olds to train and work in the environment.

Green Army projects include restoring native vegetation, heritage restoration, protecting animal habitats and regenerating wetlands in urban, rural and remote areas. The Green Jobs Corp service providers in Victoria are Central Victorian Training Company Limited, Job Futures Ltd, MAX Employment and Mission Australia.

Community organisations, Landcare groups, natural resource management organisations, environment groups, Indigenous organisations, local councils and others can apply to host a Green Army project.



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The Australian Government has engaged five Service Providers to deliver the programme on the ground, and they are responsible for recruiting participants and team supervisors,

managing work health and safety, providing training, paying allowances, and overseeing project management.

Further references

Landcare Coordinators in your region – contact your Catchment Management Authority

Victorian Landcare gateway:
www.landcarevic.org.au

Australian Government (2016) – Work for the Dole:
<https://www.employment.gov.au/work-dole6>

Australian Government (2016) – Green Army:
<https://www.environment.gov.au/land/green-army>

Conservation Volunteers (2007):
<http://www.conservationvolunteers.com.au>

Related Landcare Notes

This Landcare Note is one of a series. These notes provide an excellent guide for the ongoing operation of your group.

Acknowledgements

Compiled by the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority's Landcare Support Team

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