

User Choice

The Northern Territory Government is committed to building a skilled and competitive workforce to meet the needs of industry and business and fill job opportunities created by continuing strong economic growth in the NT. The objective of the User Choice Funding Program is to increase the responsiveness of the vocational education and training sector to meet the needs of clients through the encouragement of a direct and market driven relationship between individual public and private training providers and clients.

User choice funding is provided to registered training organisations to provide training and assessment to apprentices and trainees to achieve nationally recognised qualifications.

The User Choice Funding Program allows employers, together with the apprentices and trainees they employ, to choose which registered training organisation (RTO) will provide them with the training and assessment services and to negotiate key aspects of the training such as where, how and when it will be provided.

Apprenticeship and traineeship qualifications are available from Certificate level II through to Diploma and are eligible to be funded where they are identified in the training package as an appropriate apprenticeship / traineeship pathway.

Who is eligible?

Apprenticeships and traineeships are available to anyone 15 years or older and do not require any entry qualifications. You can be:

- at school
- re-entering the workforce
- already working and wanting to up-skill or gain a qualification - eligibility criteria applies
- intending to change careers.

Existing Employees

An employee who has worked continuously for an employer either full-time for three months, or part-time or casual for 12 months, prior to entering into an apprenticeship or traineeship contract of training will be deemed an existing worker.

Under this policy, an existing worker:

- is eligible to access user choice funded training to undertake an apprenticeship.
- is not eligible to access user choice funded training to undertake a traineeship.

Exceptions to this policy are where the existing worker is:

- a person who worked when attending school and is subsequently entering a traineeship with the same employer
- undertaking a traineeship in an occupation experiencing skills shortages as listed on the NT Skilled Occupation Priority List
- progressing to a higher level qualification within the same National Training Package, no more than 12 months after completing a previous apprenticeship or traineeship. The department will fund only the one progression, for example, Certificate II to a Certificate III.
- an Indigenous person.

Delivery Modes available:

- Employment
- Online/Electronic
- Combination of both

The duration of the course will depend on the students experience and flexibility. Students can discuss this with an ABC Training and Consulting staff member upon enrolment to find what delivery modes suits them best.

Funded Qualifications:

- MSL30118 Certificate III in Laboratory Skills
- MSL40118 Certificate IV in Laboratory Techniques
- MSL50118 Diploma of Laboratory Technology

Please note, these qualifications are in the process of being transitioned to new versions. When the NT Government update their funding guidelines we will start taking enrolments in the new versions

Fees and Charges

ABC Training and Consulting waive any fees or charges relating to students enrolled under User Choice Training Contract in the Northern Territory.

Fee for Service

Apprenticeship and traineeship qualifications that are not funded through user choice may be funded on a 'fee-for-service' basis as negotiated between the employer and RTO.

Please see our **Fee for Service Factsheet**.