



Specialised Retraining Programs

If you are injured at work, it is always ideal to return to your original job. Depending on how severe your injury is, you may need further help to return to the workforce. Sometimes, formal training or study is the only option available to you.

Specialised Retraining Programs can assist you if this is the only way you can return to work. The Program allows you to undertake formal vocational training and/or study through technical or tertiary training courses of three years duration or less.

Who is eligible?

There are strict retraining criteria and impairment levels to be eligible for the Program. You may be eligible if:

- your injury occurred on or after 14 November 2005;
- you apply within the specified timeframes (generally two years after your claim was made or otherwise as determined by an arbitrator);
- it is agreed by you and your employer (or determined by an arbitrator), that you have

a permanent whole of person impairment of at least 10 per cent but less than 15 per cent; and

- you satisfy the retraining criteria (as outlined below).

What are the eligibility criteria?

Your application is assessed against retraining criteria and on individual merit. In your application, you need to show that you meet the following criteria:

- you have participated in a return to work program but have not been able to fully return to work;
- you have capacity for retraining and it is a viable option;
- formal training or study appears to be the only option to enable you to return to work; and
- it is reasonable to expect that retraining will give you useful skills or qualifications necessary to return to the workforce, taking into consideration the labour market, your existing qualifications and work experience.



If you are receiving weekly payments, or have reached the maximum entitlement for weekly payments, you **are** eligible to apply.

If you have applied to pursue a common law claim or have reached a settlement, you are **not** eligible to apply.

You and your employer must agree that you meet all the retraining criteria. If agreement cannot be reached, you may refer the question to WorkCover WA for determination by an arbitrator.

Who determines eligibility for specialised retraining?

The Specialised Retraining Assessment Panel will determine your eligibility for specialised retraining.

The Panel must be convened and includes three members:

1. An occupational physician, who is an approved medical specialist.
2. A person with knowledge and experience in the labour market, who is not an officer of WorkCover WA.
3. An officer of WorkCover WA experienced in injury management.

The Panel may ask you, your employer, their insurer, your medical practitioners or approved vocational rehabilitation provider to attend, answer questions and/or produce any relevant documents.

How to apply?

If you and your employer agree that you meet all the retraining criteria, you can register your agreement with WorkCover WA.

What does a specialised retraining agreement cover?

A maximum entitlement of 75 per cent of the prescribed amount is available to fund your retraining, including books, course fees, and other expenses. If you have already used your maximum entitlement for vocational rehabilitation, you can request to access additional expenditure (a maximum of three per cent of this entitlement) to assist you with your application and coordinate the program.

The entitlement for specialised retraining cannot be redeemed as part of any settlement agreement. If your claim is settled, the retraining program will cease.

Who monitors the Specialised Retraining Program?

As part of the written agreement between yourself and WorkCover WA, your performance in the Program (which includes your attendance and satisfactory progress) will be reviewed by WorkCover WA every three months.

Want more information?

Contact WorkCover WA's Advisory Services on 1300 794 744 or visit the website.

About WorkCover WA

WorkCover WA is the government agency responsible for overseeing the workers' compensation and injury management system in Western Australia.

This includes monitoring compliance with the *Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981*, informing and educating workers, employers and others about workers' compensation and injury management and providing an independent dispute resolution system.



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