



## Industry Skills Fund closure – Frequently Asked Questions

Questions	Answers
<b>What changes to the Industry Skills Fund were announced as part of MYEFO?</b>	On 19 December 2016, the Australian Government announced the decision to close the Industry Skills Fund to new applications as part of a range of changes to programs through the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO). The impact of these changes is that after 31 December 2016, the fund will no longer accept training grant applications.
<b>Why has the Industry Skills Fund been closed?</b>	The closure of the Industry Skills Fund is in response to the broader Australian Government agenda with funding being re-directed within the Education and Training portfolio to programs which include the VET Student Loans program.
<b>What other alternatives are available to me to receive support for my training?</b>	The government continues to support training for businesses and individuals through a range of skills programs, including the Australian Apprenticeship Incentives Program, Trade Support Loans, and the VET Student Loans Program. The Australian Government’s Single Business Service also offers a range of grants and assistance to Australian businesses. There are a range of other government assistance options for business available on <a href="http://business.gov.au">business.gov.au</a> . You may also wish to contact your State Training Authority for information on available state-based assistance.
<b>I have not yet made an enquiry. Can I still do so?</b>	No. The Industry Skills Fund is a closed program and is no longer accepting enquiries.
<b>I am interested in receiving Skills Advice. Can I still get a referral for it?</b>	No. The Industry Skills Fund is a closed program. No new referrals to Skills Advice will be made.
<b>I have made an enquiry and/or have received Skills Advice, but have not yet made an application. Can I still do so?</b>	No, the Industry Skills Fund is a closed program. Applications closed on 31 December 2016.
<b>I have an application pending with the fund. Will it be affected?</b>	No, applications already lodged with the fund on or before 31 December 2016 will be assessed

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	<p>under the same merit criteria as before, with the strongest applications receiving funding. However, due to the closure of the fund, normal processing timeframes will not apply. You will receive notification as soon as an outcome on your application is decided.</p> <p>If you have any further questions, please contact your Customer Service Manager.</p>
<p><b>I have a current contract with the fund. Will it be affected?</b></p>	<p>No, existing projects under the program will continue to be honoured. However, you should be aware that it will not be possible to vary your existing contract to increase the value or length of your grant. Please refer to the updated Guide to Managing your Grant available at <a href="https://www.business.gov.au/assistance/industry-skills-fund">https://www.business.gov.au/assistance/industry-skills-fund</a>.</p> <p>If you have any further questions, please contact your Customer Service Manager.</p>
<p><b>I have a current contract with the fund, but it does not cover all the training recommended in my SAR. Will I be able to get funding for that training as well?</b></p>	<p>No, the Industry Skills Fund is a closed program. Applications closed on 31 December 2016.</p>