

## **2023 Plumbing, Gasfitting and Drainlaying apprentice fees and payment requirements**

The Government's Targeted Training and Apprenticeship fund (TTAF), which has covered fees for industry training since 2020, is ending on 31 December 2022. This means that, as of 1 January 2023, Te Pūkenga will be reintroducing the training fees for apprentices (learners).

- You can find the 2023 learner fees [here](#)

### **TIMING OF FEES RELEASE**

Te Pūkenga have acknowledged the late fee notice due to transition is not ideal for learners or employers to be receiving just before Christmas.

In doing so, Te Pūkenga have committed to cover the first month of 2023 fees for all learners enrolled with their EarnLearn division. **This means learners don't have to pay any fees in January 2023.** Te Pūkenga will only be charging for 11 months of 2023 fees.

### **OVER-DURATION LEARNERS IMPACTED DUE TO COVID-19**

Some learners who should have completed their training before TTAF ended have now gone over duration through no fault of their own (eg, lack of block course availability).

For this group, who start the 2023 year over their programme duration, Te Pūkenga have agreed they will not be charging them 2023 fees.

If a learner goes over duration in 2023 (meaning beyond the expected end date of their programme), their Direct Debit payments will be stopped from the date they go over duration.

### **DIRECT DEBIT FORMS or INVOICING DETAILS REQUIRED BY 16 DECEMBER**

For the past two years we have been operating under TTAF, in a fees free environment, and we are now transitioning back into a fee paying structure from 2023. This is the same for all industries.

### **LET YOUR LEARNER KNOW**

As an employer, you will need to let your apprentice know whether you will be covering their training fees or whether they are going to need to start paying these on a weekly basis.

Te Pūkenga have recently sent an email to all employers and learners to notify them of the fees and how they are to be paid.

***If you have not received this email with fee and payment information, please contact: [receivables@earnlearn.ac.nz](mailto:receivables@earnlearn.ac.nz)***

## IF YOUR LEARNER IS PAYING

If your learner is paying, they must complete the Direct Debit form sent to them by Te Pūkenga. These need to be returned by 16 December.

As this is very late notice and provides little warning, especially so close to Christmas, Te Pūkenga will be covering the cost of the first month of training for all EarnLearn learners and apprentices.

Learner Direct Debits or Employer Invoicing will commence from 1 February 2023. This brings the annual fee in line with 2020 annual fees that were in place prior to TTAF.

## PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LEARNER TO GET SET UP

It is important that learners get their Direct Debit forms sent into Te Pūkenga before the end of the year. It does take a few weeks to process this through the banks, especially over the holiday period.

If a fully completed and signed direct debit form is not received in time, the weekly amount the learner pays will be increased to cover the missed payments.

Please help apprentices and learners to complete their Direct Debit forms promptly. They will need access to a printer and possibly other support.

If you'd like to print it off, [here is a link to the Direct Debit form](#)

## 2023 DIRECT DEBIT FEE PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Te Pūkenga will cover the first month of fees. They will commence fee charges from February 2023 and invoice for only 11 months of the 2023 fees. For those paying by Direct Debit the following schedule will apply:

- Weekly Direct Debits for fees will occur on Thursdays, with the first one being debited on Thursday 2 February 2023.
- A learner can arrange alternative Direct Debit payment periods (eg, fortnightly or monthly )by contacting [receivables@earnlearn.ac.nz](mailto:receivables@earnlearn.ac.nz)

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- **For Employers:** [Apprenticeship Boost](#) is a payment made directly to employers to help them keep and take on new apprentices. Employers can receive up to 24 months of support, at up to \$500 per month. This Scheme finishes on 31 December 2023. More information can be found at [workandincome.govt.nz/apprenticeship-boost](https://workandincome.govt.nz/apprenticeship-boost)

- **For Learners:** [Fees Free](#) provides up to \$12,000 (inc GST) for up to two years' training on Fees Free eligible programmes. The eligibility criteria and the process for learners to confirm this can be found at [feesfree.govt.nz](https://feesfree.govt.nz). Te Pūkenga do need a Direct Debit form completed for ALL learners, even if they are eligible for Fees Free, to resume fee charging once the Fees Free funding has been consumed. Fees will be charged until eligibility is confirmed.

If you have any questions, contact your Te Pūkenga Account or Regional Manager on 0800 327 648 (0800 EARN IT), or email [support@earnlearn-tepukenga.ac.nz](mailto:support@earnlearn-tepukenga.ac.nz)

Please be aware that EarnLearn has a holiday close down period from 23 December 2022 – 10 January 2023.

**You can find more information on the EarnLearn-Te Pūkenga website [HERE](#)**