

Frequently Asked Questions

- [What is the Golden Gurus program?](#)

The Golden Gurus program harnesses the skills and experience of Australians aged 50 years and over by encouraging them to provide voluntary support to community organisations, and the people they assist, and small businesses.

The Golden Gurus program also encourages organisations that have a program in place that connects mature age people to volunteering or mentoring roles to apply to deliver their program as part of the national Golden Gurus community.

- [How does the program work?](#)

A range of quality organisations across Australia are ready to start connecting mature age people with opportunities to share their skills and experience with community organisations or small business owners. Some organisations connect volunteers to individuals (including young people, people with a disability or the elderly), or pair them with community organisations to help the community organisation itself to grow. Other organisations connect suitably skilled mature age people with small business owners as small business mentors. A small business mentor will not work for the business but will help the business owner with networking, to identify areas for business improvement, or to support self-development and growth. If you are 50 years and over and would like to become a Golden Guru, or if you are a small business owner, social enterprise or a community organisation that would like support, you can find an organisation in your state or territory that delivers Golden Gurus.

- [Who is expected to benefit from the program?](#)

mature age people who are retired, semi-retired or who are not working full time by providing opportunities for them to pass on their skills to the next generation; meet new people; develop social support networks; and make a difference in their communities

small businesses, by connecting small business owners (including new business owners that have completed the Government's New Enterprise Incentive Scheme) with the support of appropriately skilled mature age people

community organisations, by helping them to access capacity-building assistance, enabling them to more effectively help the community around them

not-for-profit organisations that provide a service that matches mature age volunteers with volunteering opportunities, by providing them with promotional material and other resources to attract and support new mature age volunteers and to attract new small businesses or community organisations that are looking for voluntary support.

- [When did the program commence?](#)

The Golden Gurus program commenced on 1 January 2010 and will continue until 30 June 2012,

with a review of the program to be undertaken during 2012.

- [Who can become a Golden Guru?](#)

Golden Gurus targets mature age Australians (those aged 50 years and over) who are retired, semi-retired or not working full time. If you are interested in becoming a Golden Guru, you can find an organisation in your state or territory that delivers Golden Gurus.

- [Who can deliver the program?](#)

A Member Organisation is a not-for-profit or community organisation that has been accepted by the Department as a member of the Golden Gurus community. Organisations interested in delivering the program should refer to the Golden Gurus [Quality Guidelines](#) available on this website or call 1300 650 925 for more information.

- [Can I still submit an application to deliver the program?](#)

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until 1 January 2012. If you would like assistance with your application, please [contact us](#).

- [Who can receive the support of a Golden Guru?](#)

Community organisations or small businesses (those with less than 20 employees) interested in receiving the support of a Golden Guru are able to contact a [Member Organisation](#).

- [Who can become an Ambassador?](#)

The role of an Ambassador is to work with a member of the Golden Gurus community to promote the Golden Gurus program and the organisation in the local community. Ambassadors may be involved in mentoring other Golden Gurus, participating in speaking or networking events, or contributing content to this website. To become an Ambassador for the program, a mature age person will first need to approach a member of the Golden Gurus community. They will need to become an 'active' Golden Guru and complete training associated with the role. More information will be available from 1 January 2010.

- [Will Golden Gurus be paid?](#)

The Golden Gurus program promotes voluntary opportunities. Some organisations that deliver the program may offer a small reimbursement to the Golden Guru in recognition of their out-of-pocket expenses.

- [Will Golden Gurus replace paid workers?](#)

No. Golden Gurus will fill roles that would not normally be paid positions. A Golden Guru's role must not involve tasks that would normally be done by a paid employee, reduce the hours usually worked by a paid employee, or reduce the customary overtime of an existing worker.

- [How will Golden Gurus interact with the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme?](#)

The Golden Gurus program does not replace or supplement the support provided to NEIS

participants during the 52 weeks of NEIS Assistance. Instead, upon completion of NEIS Assistance, business owners will be provided with information about how to find a member of the Golden Gurus community in their area. Participation is voluntary.

- [Can a mature age person use Golden Gurus to meet their participation requirements for Newstart Allowance or Parenting Payment?](#)

While mature age people in receipt of Newstart Allowance or Parenting Payment will be eligible to participate in the Golden Gurus program, participation in the program may not be enough to satisfy their participation requirements. For a volunteering role to be used to meet or satisfy participation requirements, the role and the organisation with which the volunteer is connected must be approved by Centrelink. Requirements include that the volunteering role is performed for a charitable, welfare or community organisation that is run on a not-for-profit basis.

For job seekers aged 50 to 54 years of age, their Job Services Australia provider must determine that participation in the voluntary activity will enhance their employment prospects.

- [How will the program work in Queensland where there is already a state-based Golden Gurus program?](#)

The program will complement and support the Queensland program. The Department is working closely with the Queensland State Government and Volunteering Queensland.

- [Will mature age people, small businesses and community organisations be covered by insurance while participating in the program?](#)

To be accepted into the Golden Gurus community, organisations must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations that they have an appropriate plan in place for risk management including appropriate insurance arrangements. The Department does not provide insurance for program participants.

- [Who has been consulted?](#)

The Golden Gurus program has been developed in consultation with key stakeholders across Australia, including organisations and individuals representing senior Australians, government, the voluntary sector and the small business sector.

- [How can people find out more?](#)

Please [contact us](#) if you have any further questions.

If you would like to receive up-to-date information about the Golden Gurus program as it becomes available, you can add your name to our electronic mailing list.

Please send your details to GoldenGurus@deewr.gov.au

Please include:

- Your name

- Your email address
- The name of your organisation or business (if applicable)
- Whether you are:
 - a mature age person interested in mentoring opportunities
 - from an organisation that matches volunteers to mentoring opportunities, or that has the capacity and interest to do so
 - from a community organisation or small business that may be interested in mentoring support.