



## RHEEM HANDING OUT \$30K TO KICKSTART AUSSIE PLUMBERS' CAREERS

*Rheem Australia has announced the launch of Rheem Apprentice Plumber Grants for 2020.*

**Sydney, Australia, February 10, 2020** – Rheem Australia is encouraging Australian apprentice plumbers and gas fitters, both current and those who are this year starting their TAFE/RTO course, to apply for a share of the \$30,000 in grants available from the scheme.

Ten deserving apprentice plumbers from around Australia will be rewarded with a grant of \$3,000 to support the progression of their study and help kickstart their career.

Now in its eighth year, the Rheem Apprentice Plumber Grants program was established to alleviate the financial strain felt by many apprentice plumbers, and to invest in the skills of future plumbers and provide training assistance.

“Since launching the Rheem Apprentice Plumber Grants program in 2012, we’ve awarded \$240,000 in grants to apprentice plumbers around Australia,” says Chief Operating Officer at Rheem, Chris Taylor.

However, the benefits of the grant aren’t just monetary, explains 2019 recipient Carl Marcic.

“The conversations that occur between apprentices and their employer during the application process promotes an environment whereby strengths are identified, and constructive criticism becomes a welcome starting point to further improvement,” reflects Marcic.

“Rheem is engaged with, and committed to, the plumbing community and our involvement doesn’t stop with products and innovation. One of the most valuable ways we can support the future of our industry is by championing the education and training of Australia’s next generation of plumbers,” adds Taylor.

Grant recipients will receive \$2,000 to assist with their TAFE/RTO fees and textbooks, and \$1,000 to help newcomers build their all-important trade toolbox.

“Following feedback from apprentices, plumbing teachers and employers, we’ve determined that the greatest financial hardships are associated with tuition and tools. The grant provides recipients with the opportunity to commit to further study, such as continuing the optional fourth year where apprentices can earn their tradesman license and dream of one day operating their own business,” he says.





Since its inception, Rheem has awarded 180 Grants to apprentice plumbers from all walks of life: females and males, teenagers and mature-age apprentices, as well as those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

“All recipients share one commonality; the ambition to become the next generation of plumbers. We’re committed to helping aspiring apprentice plumbers achieve their goals, regardless of the diverse paths that have led applicants to where they are today.”

A panel of independent industry experts and a Rheem adjudicator will judge the 2020 Rheem Apprentice Plumber Grants.

“I urge every apprentice plumber to apply for a 2020 Rheem Apprentice Plumber Grant. We’ve streamlined the application process this year to make it easier to apply than ever before. Apprentices have nothing to lose and everything to gain,” concludes Taylor.

Applications for the 2020 Rheem Apprentice Plumber Grants program open on Monday 10 February 2020 and close at 5pm on Monday 30 March 2020. Successful grant recipients will be announced on Friday 8 May 2020.

Applicants must submit the completed form via the website at [www.rheem.com.au/apprentice](http://www.rheem.com.au/apprentice).

Any questions regarding the application process should be emailed to [rheemgrants@impactagency.com.au](mailto:rheemgrants@impactagency.com.au).

Recipients of previous Rheem Apprentice Plumber Grants are not eligible to enter. Please see the Rheem website for full terms and conditions [www.rheem.com.au/apprentice](http://www.rheem.com.au/apprentice).

## ENDS

**About Rheem Australia** – [www.rheem.com.au](http://www.rheem.com.au)

Rheem has been manufacturing in Australia since 1937 and is the largest producer of water heaters in Australia. Its brands include Rheem, Solahart, Vulcan, Aquamax, Raypak and Everhot. It employs people throughout Australia and has manufacturing facilities in NSW and Victoria. It has additional subsidiary organisations in New Zealand, China, Vietnam and Singapore.

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