



Australian Government

Department of Social Services

What's next for Disability Employment Services

DEA Conference
14-15 June 2023

The Department of Social Services acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, water and community.

We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to Elders both past and present.

Overview

1. Reviews and processes relevant to disability employment reform
2. Disability Employment Services (DES) reform
3. Quality framework
4. Centre of Excellence
5. Pilot initiatives
6. Supported employment

Reform of disability employment will be impacted by....

Relevant reviews and processes:

- Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability
- Select Committee Inquiry into Workforce Australia Employment Services
- National Disability Insurance Services (NDIS) Review
- Employment White Paper

Disability Employment Services (DES) reform

- In October 2022 the Government announced a phased approach to reforming disability employment.
- The first step of this process is to extend the current DES program to 30 June 2025, with some immediate changes to current DES program, including a quality framework to improve service quality for participants.
- The new model will:
 - continue the greater focus on quality;
 - provide employment services to people with disability who are subject to mutual obligation requirements and those who are not;
 - have greater integration with other programs and services, such as Workforce Australia and the NDIS; and
 - provide flexible support which meets the needs of people with disability.

Quality Framework

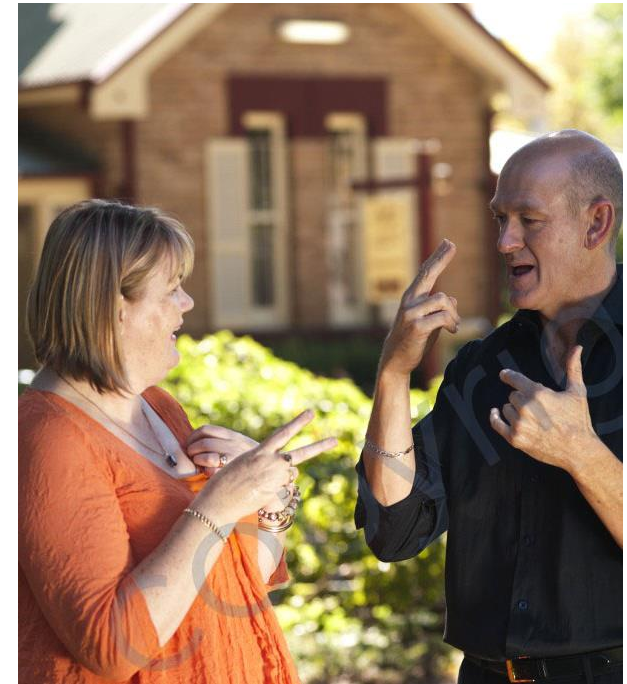
The aim of the new quality framework is to work with the sector and other stakeholders towards mutual quality aims

- The new DES quality framework supports the existing Key Performance Indicators.
- Public consultation from 19 December 2022 to 13 March 2023.
- Further targeted consultation to occur throughout June.
- To commence from July 2023.



Centre of Excellence

- Centre of Excellence
 - Inform and guide best practice across the sector.
 - Improve employment outcomes for people with disability.
- Consultation to be undertaken this year.
- Implementation to commence mid 2024.
- How do we build on what is already out there?



NDIS/DES Pathways Pilot

Aim: To improve pathways into the DES program for people without mutual obligation requirements

- 53,300 NDIS participants in receipt of the Disability Support Pension (DSP) have indicated they *want* to work
- The department is working with the NDIA and Services Australia to develop the pilot
- Consultation with NDIS participants, Disability Representative Organisations (DROs), and DES provider peak bodies to help define the scope of the pilot.

Visitor Economy Disability Employment Pilot

The Pilot will test a new approach to supporting tourism employers with local Navigators to connect with employment service providers and/or jobseekers with disability

- The Pilot will address barriers in recruiting, retaining and progressing jobseekers.
- 12 successful grant recipients announced on 3 June 2023.
- Navigators will be funded from July 2023 to June 2024 in targeted locations.

Business Council of Australia – Disability Employment Initiative Pilot

The Pilot will encourage large employers to create long-term jobs and career advancement opportunities for people with disability

- Funding from July 2023 to July 2024.
- The Pilot will aim to narrow the gap between the employment levels of people with disability and those without disability by:
 - driving attitudinal change;
 - encouraging Australia’s largest employers to focus beyond entry level jobs; and
 - driving long-term employment outcomes – career advancement, leadership.

Supported employment

- \$52.7 million was announced in the 2023-24 Budget to assist the supported employment sector to evolve.
- Provide people with disability with high support needs, their families and carers with access to greater advocacy and information.
- Six initiatives:
 1. Structural Adjustment Fund
 2. Transition to the revised Supported Employment Services Award
 3. Consultation on a disability business procurement initiative
 4. Conducting an evaluation of supported employment initiatives and trials
 5. Job expos
 6. Targeted advocacy and information supports

Thank you

Katrina Chatham

Katrina.Chatham@dss.gov.au.