



Australian Government



# NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR CDEP TRANSITION

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## Information for CDEP and RJCP providers

*The Australian Government is introducing significant reforms to employment, participation and community-development services in remote Australia to help more people get into jobs and participate in their communities.*

From 1 July 2013, Job Services Australia (JSA), Disability Employment Services (DES), the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program and the Indigenous Employment Program (IEP) will transition to the new Remote Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP). The RJCP will provide a more streamlined and flexible employment, participation and community-development service across remote Australia.

The Australian Government is working closely with the new RJCP providers to ensure a smooth transition to the RJCP. Provider forums and training sessions are under way in preparation for the commencement of the new program on 1 July. Some providers are also receiving capacity building support to prepare for the new program.

The Government recognises the challenges of implementing a new service in remote locations and in a relatively tight timeframe. Providers need to set up offices, IT systems and administrative procedures, as well as make arrangements to meet with all job seekers on their caseload and commence engagement with communities and employers in their region.

During the transition, the Australian Government will ensure that essential activities and community services that have been provided through the CDEP program are maintained, that CDEP participants remain actively involved in community activities, and that wages continue to be paid to eligible CDEP participants.

In many communities, CDEP participants are integral to the delivery of important community services and the Australian Government is committed to ensuring these services are not disrupted during the transition to the new program.

CDEP participants also need to remain engaged in activities in line with the Government's commitment to active participation for all job seekers and a robust system of compliance.

To ensure a smooth transition to the new program, the Government is providing a two-month extension of funding for organisations currently delivering CDEP and that **are not the lead RJCP**

**provider in the region.** CDEP organisations that are involved in sub-contracting to the lead RJCP provider will also have their funding extended.

This assistance for CDEP providers will support continuity of activities and wages as RJCP providers establish their operations and commence their engagement with CDEP participants.

The funding will be made available through the extension of existing funding agreements with CDEP providers, and an additional participant transition payment will be made to the CDEP provider upon successful transition of each CDEP participant to the new RJCP provider within two weeks of the RJCP provider being fully established in the region.

CDEP providers will work with the RJCP provider to ensure the successful transition of participants during the two-month period. RJCP providers will begin to meet with CDEP participants from the start of July to set up participation plans and activities, as well as organise payments for CDEP wages recipients. RJCP providers may engage and commence delivering activities to job seekers as soon as they are ready to do so.

Support is also available for important services and community programs through the Community Development Fund (CDF), which provides \$237.5 million over five years as part of the RJCP. The first CDF funding round is open from 25 May to 21 June 2013, and organisations are encouraged to apply. In addition, the Minister for Families, Housing and Community Services has the discretion to provide CDF funding for key activities outside the funding round.

The Australian Government acknowledges the contribution made by CDEP providers in Indigenous communities, in some cases for more than 30 years. Their role in fostering community development, economic development and social participation has been very significant. They have delivered important community programs.

Many CDEP organisations were successful in the RJCP provider-selection process and are among the many locally based providers that have won business in the new program.

Those CDEP organisations that will not be involved or that will have only a minor role in the RJCP will be supported so that they can continue to make a contribution to communities and operate as independently as possible.

Expert advice on business planning and structuring and governance support as well as financial and legal advice is being offered through the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC).

Organisations will also be eligible for additional funding to help transition their operations and retain key staff while longer term arrangements are being developed to enable them to continue to serve their communities.

Transitional support will continue to be provided to new RJCP providers, transitioning CDEP providers and remote communities through the networks of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) and, in particular for CDEP providers, the Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs) across Australia.