



Australian Government



NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR CDEP TRANSITION

Information for CDEP 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 and participation service across remote Australia.

The Australian Government is working closely with the new RJCP providers to ensure providers are ready to deliver services from 1 July 2013 and there is a smooth transition to the new program. At the same time the Government recognises the challenges of implementing a new service in remote locations.

Support is available from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and from the **Community Development Fund**, managed by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), to help local providers and those involved in subcontracting and partnering arrangements.

Some providers are also receiving **capacity building support** to prepare for the RJCP. This can include project management, legal and financial support for organisations. This support is available, where required, to providers to ensure they are well placed for the transition to the RJCP and their operation as RJCP providers.

The Government recognises the importance of local organisations and the contribution they have been making to communities. It wants to see these organisations supported so that they can continue to contribute in the future, whether they are incoming RJCP providers or current CDEP organisations with a minor or no direct role in the new program.

During the transition, continuity is crucial – essential activities and community services that have been provided or supported through the CDEP program must be maintained, CDEP participants must remain actively involved in community activities, and wages must continue to be paid to eligible CDEP participants.

Extension of CDEP funding

To ensure a smooth transition to the new program, the Government is providing a **two-month extension of current CDEP funding for organisations delivering CDEP and that are not continuing as the lead RJCP provider in the region**. CDEP organisations that are involved in subcontracting to the lead RJCP provider will also have their funding extended beyond 1 July 2013.

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.

A **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 organisations will work closely with RJCP providers to ensure a timely and seamless transition of Indigenous job seekers to the new arrangements over this two-month period.

Additional support for CDEP organisations

The Government is also acknowledging the contribution made by CDEP providers in Indigenous communities, in some cases for more than 30 years, with a package of additional support for those organisations that will not be involved in the RJCP or have only a minor role.

Expert advice on business planning and structuring and governance support as well as financial and legal advice will be provided through the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC). Organisations **do not** need to be registered with ORIC to get this support.

In addition, funding will also be made available to CDEP organisations to support them through transition. This funding may be used for a range of activities including retaining key staff for an interim period to work with the ORIC advisers to reshape organisations and strengthen their ability to go on contributing to the communities they serve.

This means that key staff will be retained, and that organisations, government and community can work together to put in place the best and most sustainable arrangements for the longer term.

Staff in the FaHCSIA network are available to help organisations access this support and make this transition.

Continuation of community activities

Many CDEP organisations run very worthwhile activities that deliver economic development, employment and opportunities for local people to contribute to their community. The Government expects that many of these activities will be continued by RJCP providers.

These activities can also be supported through the **Community Development Fund (CDF)**. The first grants round for the CDF closes on 21 June 2013, and funding is expected to flow quickly for approved projects after 1 July 2013.

Some communities and organisations may not yet have a clear view of the support they need or may not be in a position to apply in this first round. Organisations should use the support from the ORIC

and FaHCSIA to develop options for consideration in subsequent CDF funding rounds. Further activity funding under the CDF will occur very quickly after the finalisation of this current round.

The Government is concerned to ensure that important community activities and services continue. The CDF will provide funding certainty for the organisations running these services while arrangements are made for longer term support for these activities from the appropriate funding source.

Non-remote regions

Outside of the RJCP regions there are eight non-remote CDEP providers delivering employment services to a range of communities. In these areas, funding for CDEP providers will be extended for up to 12 months. During this period the Government will work closely with communities and CDEP providers to develop longer term arrangements for activities and employment services for their community.

JSA, DES and the IEP will continue to operate in non-remote locations.