



Disability Employment Services

Program changes from 2018 – Information for employers

Improvements to the Australian Government's Disability Employment Services program will help more people with disability, injury or a health condition to find and keep long-term jobs.

About the Disability Employment Services program

The Disability Employment Services (DES) program provides specific, tailored support for people with disability to find and keep a job.

Changes are being introduced from 1 July 2018 that will better meet the needs of participants with disability, injury or health condition; and be more rewarding for DES providers who successfully connect people with lasting employment.

The changes are a result of extensive community consultation involving people with disability, disability peak organisations, disability service providers and employers.

DES program changes

Improving services for employers

The Government funds DES providers to find the right candidate for your business; provide your business with advice and support to assist you to employ a person with disability; and to support employees to be productive and a valuable member of your team.

The changes being made to the program from July 2018 will increase incentives for providers to match the right person to the job, and support workers and employers to achieve job placements that work for both and lead to lasting employment.

As part of the program, the Government will continue to fund any necessary and reasonable adjustments that need to be made in your workplace to accommodate a worker with disability. Apprenticeship wage support is also available for apprentices with disability.

Improving choice and control for participants

DES participants will be able to choose a DES provider based on provider performance and location without any restrictions. Centrelink will provide information on provider performance

to help the participant choose a provider within or beyond their Employment Service Area (ESA). Additional information, such as the services participants are entitled to receive from a DES provider will also be made available from the Department of Social Services.

From 1 July 2018, the market share arrangements for DES providers will be removed opening up the market to more DES providers. This will not only increase competition and drive improvements to prepare people with disability for work, but will also offer employers greater choice of the DES provider or providers they want to work with.

A more flexible DES market will make it easier for providers to operate in areas where they have strong relationships with employers.

From 1 July 2018, it will be easier for new providers to enter the DES market and for high performing providers to expand into new areas, so providers can match the footprint of the employers they work with closely.

New four-week and 52-week outcome payments will improve job matching between participants and employers. These payments will strengthen the requirements for the initial job placement, and provide a financial incentive to achieve long term employment outcomes.

Increasing incentives to successfully place participants into sustainable employment will reward those providers who work best with employers to achieve those outcomes.

Supporting people with disability in the workplace

People with disability who are already employed but may be finding work more difficult due to their disability, health condition or injury can access 'Work Assist' (previously called Job-in-Jeopardy). Under Work Assist, DES providers will work with employers and participants to provide individual, flexible support to help participants to continue to perform well in their job.

DES will continue to offer services to support employers to keep people with disability in the workplace. These include the JobAccess Service and funding for workplace modifications available through the Employment Assistance Fund (EAF).

More information

For more information about DES, including the changes, visit the [Department of Social Services](#) or [JobAccess](#) websites or call JobAccess on **1800 464 800**.