



Disability Employment Reforms

2024-25 May Budget Factsheet

A new specialist disability employment program

From 1 July 2025 a new specialist disability employment program will help more people with disability, injury and/or a health condition to prepare for, find and maintain sustainable employment.

A specialist disability employment program

The new program will focus on assisting people with disability, injury and/or a health condition to find and maintain sustainable employment. The new program will be delivered by high-quality providers with a diversity of expertise helping people with disability into employment. Providers will place participants and employers at the centre of their service design and build meaningful relationships with both participants and employers.

How was the new program designed?

The design of the new program responds to feedback on the current Disability Employment Services (DES) program from people with disability, disability peak organisations, employment service providers, and employers. Several strategies and recent reviews have also been considered — including the [Australian Government's White Paper on Jobs and Opportunities](#), the [Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and the Exploitation of People with Disability](#), the [Independent Review into the National Disability Insurance Scheme](#) and the [House Select Committee Inquiry on Workforce Australia Employment Services](#).

What is changing?

Support for more participants

More people will be able to access support from 1 July 2025. All current participants will receive continued services in the new program. In addition, the new specialist disability employment program will expand eligibility to include people who have an assessed future work capacity of less than 8 hours per week, as well as those who do not receive an income support payment. Current DES participants do not need to do anything yet and should continue to work with their current provider.

Improved user experience

The new program recognises that everyone's journey to finding employment is different and some may need more time to build their skills before they secure long-term employment. To support this, the new program will remove the 2-year service limit and reduce administrative churn. Participants will be able to have an ongoing relationship with their provider for as long as is needed.

Building trust between providers and participants

The new program will feature providers with staff who have a diversity of skills and experience that is representative of the communities they are working with. Providers will build meaningful relationships with both participants and employers. Providers will deliver support that take into consideration each participant's strengths and aspirations.

Services that reflect the diverse range of pathways to employment

The new program will improve the quality of service for participants by ensuring the support provided is tailored to their circumstances, including pre-employment, job search or in-employment supports. There will be new intensive and flexible services that recognises individual circumstances and servicing needs.

Higher value wage subsidies

A single wage subsidies program of up to \$10,000 per person will be available, with simplified administration, to help place participants into sustained employment.

Continued support for participants in employment

The new program will continue to provide support to participants and their employer when they are placed into employment and make sure they have the support they need to succeed. Longer term supports will also be available for those who require continuing assistance in their workplace. Targeted assistance will also be available for employers who may already employ a person with disability if this participant needs extra support to maintain their employment.

System improvements

There will be a major digital uplift to modernise the ICT system and a range of other improvements to support ongoing quality, monitoring, and evaluation of the new program.

Next steps

The Australian Government will be seeking to procure a diverse network of specialist providers to deliver the new program from 1 July 2025.

The Department of Social Services will hold further consultations with the community about how the new program will work. These consultations will involve people with disability, disability peak organisations, disability service providers and employers.

More information

For more information about the disability employment reforms, visit the [Department of Social Services](#) website. There are factsheets on the reforms with information for participants, employers and providers. There are also factsheets in relation to the Disability Employment Centre for Excellence and National Panel of Assessors program.

For more information about the current program, visit the [Department of Social Services](#) or [JobAccess](#) websites. These websites will be updated with new information as it becomes available.

You can also call the National Customer Service Line on **1800 805 260** or speak to a JobAccess Adviser on **1800 464 800**.