



Disability Employment Reforms

2024-25 May Budget Factsheet

A new specialist disability employment program

Information for participants

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring that no Australian with disability is left behind, and that people with disability, injury or a health condition have equal opportunities to gain employment.

About disability employment services

The current Disability Employment Services (DES) program provides tailored support to people with disability, injury and/or a health condition to help them find and keep a job.

From 1 July 2025, the Australian Government will introduce a new specialist disability employment program. Under the new program, providers will deliver high-quality, effective employment services to improve employment outcomes for people with disability. Providers will place participants and employers at the centre of their service design and build meaningful relationships with both participants and employers.

What will the new program mean for participants?

Meeting the needs of participants

The new program will improve the quality of service for participants by ensuring the support provided is tailored to their circumstances. Providers will work with participants to build trust and offer support that best meets their circumstances, goals and aspirations.

A diverse network of providers will deliver services that are centred on the needs of participants and employers. Participants will be able to choose a provider with the right types of skills and experience to help them find and keep a job.

The new program recognises that everyone's journey to finding employment is different. Participants will receive customised and flexible supports depending on where they are in their employment journey. A range of work preparation and pre-employment supports will be available to build skills and confidence and get ready to look for work. Supports may also include completing a resume, applying for jobs, connecting with employers, undertaking work experience or

completing work trials. Participants who find a job will continue to be supported while they settle into employment and longer-term supports can also be provided, if needed, to keep their job.

The new program will also offer two different levels of servicing, a flexible and intensive service, to better focus on providing supports that are tailored to participant needs. The flexible service will assist participants to remain connected to the program while they build their capacity or undertake other activities that build up their skills, such as training, study, and work.

Supporting more people with disability

Changes to the program will mean that more people will be able to receive services in the new program.

The new program will be open to anyone with an assessed work capacity of up to 30 hours per week due to a disability, injury and/or a health condition.

- All participants currently eligible for the current DES program will continue to receive services in the new program.
- People with an assessed future work capacity of less than 8 hours per week will be able to volunteer.
- People will not need to receive an income support payment to be eligible.

There will no longer be a 2-year service limit. Participants will be able to stay in the program for as long as they need support.

Next steps

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.

Current DES participants do not need to do anything yet and should continue to work with their current provider. Further information will be available next year before the new program starts.

More information

For more information about disability employment programs, 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 Job Seeker Hotline on **13 62 68** or speak to a JobAccess Advisor on **1800 464 800**. If you are deaf or find it hard to hear or speak on the phone, you can connect with JobAccess through the National Relay Service (NRS) via [Access Hub](#).