



CONCURRENT PROGRAMS SUPPORTING DOCUMENT

Policy Intent

Concurrent programs are Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government funded programs that a job seeker may be eligible for and participate in simultaneously with Disability Employment Services (DES).

Programs are generally not classed as concurrent if:

- the program is a post-school program administered by an Australian state or territory government
- the program's main objective is to assist students with disability to transition from school to employment
- the program has eligibility criteria to ensure program participants have significant disability, as defined in the Eligible School Leaver Guidelines.

Assumptions in allowing concurrent participation:

- Participants must meet eligibility requirements of the concurrent program
- the Participant has the capacity to benefit from the program and ability to *fully and effectively* participate in both programs, and
- while the DES Participant is in another program concurrently, the DES Provider must meet minimum servicing requirements as outlined in the DES Grant Agreement and in accordance with relevant Guidelines.

Australian Disability Enterprises Background

Background

Australian Disability Enterprises (ADE) are commercial businesses that provide employment for people with disability in a supported work environment. Prior to 1 January 2016 ADE employees could commence in DES if they were eligible but had to leave their ADE position unless they were working beneath their assessed employment benchmark hours.

From 1 January 2016, ADE employees could be Commenced in DES and participate concurrently in both programs. With the exception of ESAt/JCA exempt jobseekers (please refer to the Eligible School Leaver Guidelines and School Leaver Trial Guidelines), ADE employees must have a Valid Employment Services Assessment (ESAt) or Job Capacity Assessment (JCA) recommending DES and meet all other eligibility requirements for DES. From 1 July 2018, this arrangement includes people who receive National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) funding for supported employment.

Once a suitable job placement is found, the DES Provider can continue to support the Participant in Employment as long as required in accordance with relevant DES guidelines. The DES Participant can choose whether to continue their ADE employment.

State or Territory Government post-school employment or transition to work programs

Background

From 1 July 2015 a person who is in their final six months of participation in an eligible state or territory post-school employment or transition to work program for people with disability, can be Commenced in DES as an Eligible School Leaver. This enables a smooth transition between programs. Eligible programs that have been approved by the Department are listed in the table below and meet the following criteria:

- The program is a post-school program administered by an Australian state or territory government
- The program's main objective is to assist students with disability to transition from school to employment.

The program has eligibility criteria to ensure program participants have a significant disability, as defined in the *Eligible School Leaver Guidelines*.

DES Concurrent Table

The following table outlines the DES concurrency status of a number of government-funded programs. This is not an exhaustive list. If a program is not listed here and a DES Provider is in doubt as to its concurrency with DES, the DES Provider should contact their Relationship Manager for further advice.

Program	Concurrent with DES
Jobs Victoria Employment Network (JVEN)	No. DSS has reviewed the JVEN program and determined it has common service elements with DES and it may be unreasonable to expect participation in both programs simultaneously.
jobactive or Commonwealth employment services Transition to Work Program	No
Jobs, Land and Economy Program (JLEP)	Yes
New Enterprise Incentive Scheme (NEIS)	Yes. Eligible DES Participants can access NEIS while concurrently receiving assistance from a DES Provider. Where required, a DES Provider will continue providing Ongoing Support to the Participant after completing NEIS.
Skills for Education and Employment (SEE)	Yes
Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP)	Yes
Work experience activities delivered under <i>jobactive</i>	Yes. DES Providers may purchase work experience activities from <i>jobactive</i> providers if both the Participant and DES Provider believe it will be of benefit to the Participant.
People who receive NDIS funding for supported employment and/or ADE	Yes. With the exception of ESAt/JCA exempt jobseekers, ADE employees must have a Valid ESAt/JCA recommending DES and meet all other DES eligibility criteria.
State and Territory Government post-school employment or transition to work programs for people with disability	Concurrency is available for up to six months while participation is finalised in the following programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW Transition to Work program • Victorian Transition to Employment initiative
Green Army Program	Yes. Participants are suspended in DES while in the Green Army Program due to their income support payments being suspended from commencement in the Green Army. However, in some cases Participants may choose to volunteer in DES while participating in Green Army.
Vocational Training and Employment Centres (VTECs)	Yes. The VTEC program can be concurrently undertaken with DES. DES Providers can claim all fees with the exception of the Four-week Outcome fee. Where a DES Provider is also a VTEC provider, the DES Provider will only be able to claim one 26-week outcome fee. In other words, if they claim the DES 26-week outcome fee they will not be able to claim the VTEC outcome fee.
ParentsNext	No, for either Voluntary or Activity Tested job seekers. DES offers a significantly more comprehensive service to assist participants than the services received through ParentsNext. Effectively, DES will be given priority for any parent with disability who commences in DES, even if eligible for ParentsNext.