



Australian Government
Department of Social Services



New Disability Employment Framework

Disability Employment Taskforce

- Established to review the current range of employment support and develop a new disability employment framework.
- Six month consultation process.
- First round completed from May/June.
 - 38 public forums
 - 120 written submissions
- Second round to commence in September.

Why are we reviewing?

- Drive better employment outcomes for people with disability.
- Ageing population with participation predicted to fall.
- Ageing and globalisation, and the changes in mining will see workforce changes.
- The economy is in transition.

More than DES

- Our focus is broader than any one programme.
- In the three major employment programmes, we have:
 - 20,000 people in ADEs.
 - 173,000 people with disability in DES.
 - 220,000 jobseekers with disability in jobactive.

Current system

- Not achieving the overall aim of improving employment outcomes for people with disability
- System is programmatic, over-regulated, transaction-based, and driven largely by payment incentives.
- Funding and support not linked to the needs of the individual to find sustainable employment.
- Paradigm shift rather than incremental change is required.

UK model

- Individualised funding across a range of service areas.
- No significant positive impacts.
- Lessons can be learnt from implementation:
 - Provider markets not developed.
 - Did not give adequate information or support.
- Limited funds and timeframes.

Direction for the new framework

Principles

Individual funding based on needs and aspirations

Market-based service provision

Long-term career planning and capacity building

Understanding of employer needs

Increased open employment options

Whole-of-government coordination and use of technology

The person is supported through the life-course

Direction for the new framework

- Shift towards individualised funding coming at international and local levels.
 - United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
 - National Disability Strategy
 - NDIS
 - Harper Competition Policy Review
- People with Disability and peak bodies support self-directed approaches to receiving services.

Feedback from consultations

- There was positive feedback from all groups on the proposed direction
 - Link funding to the individual.
 - Move service provider accountability to individuals.
 - Encourage competition between providers.
 - Focus on career planning.
- But.....

Feedback from consultations

- There are a number of risks that need to be considered and worked through.
 - Ensure robust assessment process.
 - Consumers need to be well supported.
 - Competition between and coverage of accessible services.
 - Quality standards.
 - Smooth transition to a new system.

Next steps

- Release the Discussion Paper
 - present possible solutions and challenges to be managed.
- Conduct consultations based on the Discussion Paper.
- The Paper and information on the consultations will be released at: www.engage.dss.gov.au
- The Taskforce can be contacted at: disabilityemploymenttaskforce@dss.gov.au

Thank you

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Disability Employment Taskforce

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