



Australian Government
Department of Social Services



Transition: Disability Employment Services Reform

What is Transition?

- Set of arrangements designed to support the continuous and effective delivery of the DES program.
- A process that has been conducted effectively in the past.
- The DES reforms will implement a number of changes to introduce a more competitive and contestable provider marketplace, and increased participant choice and control from 1 July 2018.

Scope of today's presentation

- Reference Group
- Objectives and Principles
- Timeframes
- Scope
- Arrangements for Participants
- Transition Activities impacting providers
- Please Note: Information contained in today's presentation is subject to change.

Transition Reference Group

- First meeting held on 16 August 2017
- Membership:
 - DES provider peaks (including Rick Kane representing DEA)
 - Participant group representatives
 - Dept. of Human Services and Dept. of Employment
- First meeting topics:
 - elements of participant choice during the transition period;
 - planned communication activities; and
 - opportunities to enable participant choice.
- Next meeting (end September):
 - Changeover of Fee schedules;
 - Star Ratings;
 - Provider communications – Fact sheets, Guidelines; and
 - Thin Markets – Options and handling strategies for ESAs with no or insufficient provider coverage

Objective and Principles

1. Minimal disruption and continuity of service delivery for participants and employers
2. Honour existing contractual arrangements with current DES providers
3. Transition activities must support the commencement of the new model on time on 1 July 2018

Timeframes

Activity	Indicative Date
Notify providers of commencement of Transition Period and associated arrangements	Mid-December 2017
Commence Transition Period activities	Early April 2018
System transfer of Transition Participants	Weekend of 1 July 2018

Scope

- Invitation to Treat (ITT) offers
- Overall, **74.5** per cent of current contracts will be offered as an ITT, if the provider has registered interest.

Arrangements for Participants

- The transition arrangements ensure Participants continue to receive services and are transferred where and when required, taking into account their individual circumstances.
- Communication activities:
 - Letters, Fact Sheets
- Participants of exiting providers will have an opportunity to choose their new provider.
- Tailored correspondence to Participants.

Mechanisms to support Transition

- Ceasing referrals to exiting providers (where possible)
- Indicative Transition participant caseload report
- Joint Meetings
- Jobs board

Fees over the Transition period

- A Participant's Period of Service will continue on 1 July 2018, rather than being reset.
- Service Fees that fall within 13 weeks from the start of new Grant Agreements will be paid at the current (pre-1 July 2018) rate.
- If a current DES provider exits DES on or before 1 July 2018, the Department will pay the relevant Service Fee proportionate to the amount of time the provider has left in the program.

Questions?

Email – DESCommunications@dss.gov.au