

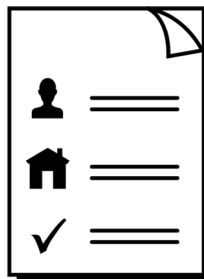


Australian Government
Department of Social Services



The new specialist disability employment program

Tell us your ideas



Easy Read

About this book

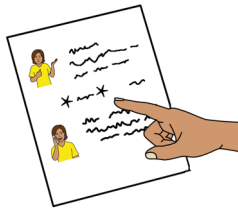
This book is from the
Department of Social Services.



You can read more information on our
[DSS Engage web page](http://www.engage.dss.gov.au/a-new-specialist-employment-disability-program-consultation)
www.engage.dss.gov.au/a-new-specialist-employment-disability-program-consultation



This book is written in a way that is easy
to understand.



We add a star before and after ***hard words***.
Then we explain what the words mean.



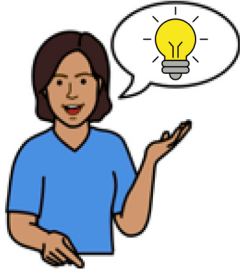
You can ask someone to help you read and
understand this book.



Contact information is at the end of this book.

The draft plan

We shared a draft plan about disability employment services with the community.



We want to hear ideas about the services and who might deliver the services.

This book has important information for participants.

The disability employment program



We have a new ***Specialist Disability Employment Program***.

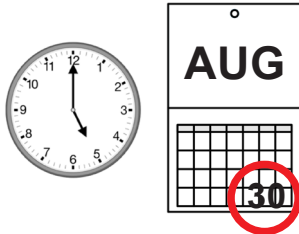
We will call it **the program**.



The program will help people with disability get support to find and keep a job in Australia.



We want your ideas about some important parts of the program before it starts.



You must send your ideas to us
before 5 PM on Friday 30 August 2024.



Send your ideas to us by email.

Email DESConsultations@dss.gov.au

How should we describe people?



We have different ideas about how to describe people who use the program.

We might say



- ***participant***

- someone with a disability, injury or health condition who uses the program

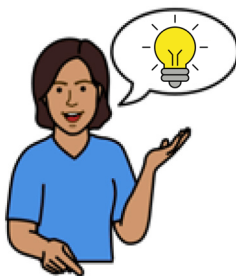
or



- ***client***

- someone who uses a professional service or gets professional advice.

We want you to tell us

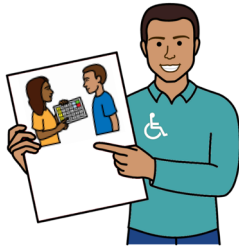


Which word should we use to describe someone who uses the program – participant, client or something else?



We have different ideas about how to describe providers who deliver services in the program.

We might say



- ***specialist providers***
 - specialist providers will deliver services to people who have a particular disability

and



- ***generalist providers***
 - generalist providers will deliver services to anyone in the program.



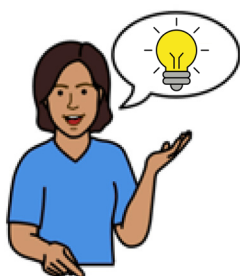
We might call all providers **Specialist Disability Employment Providers** and describe them as giving support to

- all people with disability

or

- particular groups of people with disability.

We want you to tell us



How should we describe the two types of providers instead of **specialist** and **generalist**?

Staff training ideas



Employment services must be high quality and give the best support.



Providers will need to have

- staff with the right ***qualifications***
 - qualifications means skills and experience



- good staff training



- ways to know that staff are doing a good job.



Staff who work with participants should have a Certificate 3 or higher in employment or disability services, or similar experiences.

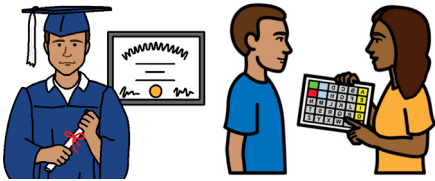


Providers should have staff and leaders with different skills and experience that represent the communities they support.

We want you to tell us



What qualifications are important for staff who work directly with participants and employers?



Should a minimum qualification for staff be compulsory?

For example, should staff have at least a Certificate 3 to work with participants?



When should providers make sure staff have the qualifications?

Participant work hours



Participants who can only work 0 to 7 hours a week can use the new program.



With the right supports a participant with a 0 to 7 hour work week can have good employment outcomes.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

Providers will support participants to aim for 8 hours of work a week.



If the participant reaches 8 hours of work a week their employer and provider can get more payment supports.

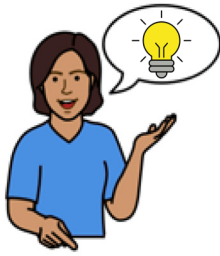


Providers will get a payment to support participants with a moderate intellectual disability in jobs that are 15 hours a week or more.

We want you to tell us



Will payment supports for providers who help participants work up to 8 hours a week help participants get better employment outcomes?



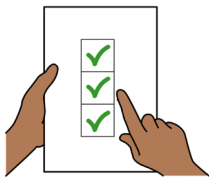
Do you have other ideas about how to get better employment outcomes for people who can only work 0 to 7 hours per week?

What information should we collect to see what might help these people?

Participants and job plans



Services and supports will be made to fit each participant's needs.



Job plans will say that participants should work with the provider to

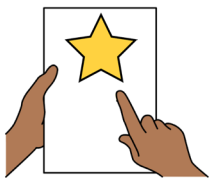
- use the program to get ready to work



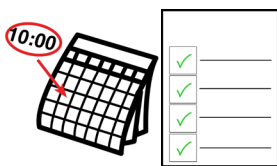
- look for a job



- stay in a job.



If the participant is not doing what the job plan says, the provider will need to do a new plan.



The new plan will list appointments and any other activities the participant must do.

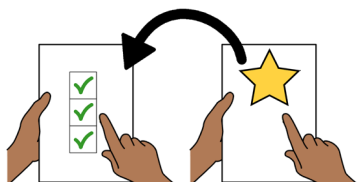
We want you to tell us



What are some ways a participant could show they are doing what is asked in the job plan?



What are some ways participants or providers could report on participation in the program?



If a provider puts a participant on a new job plan can they can go back to the original job plan?



What does the participant need to do to go back to the original plan?

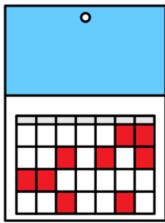
Participant appointments



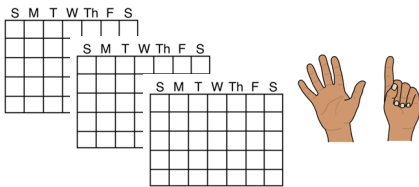
The first interview should be done face to face to help the provider build a relationship with the participant.



Other ways can be agreed by the provider and participant if it supports the needs of the participant.

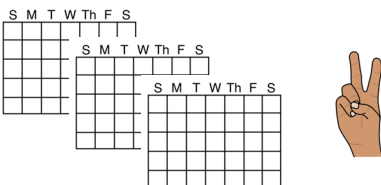


Providers will have ***regular contact*** with participants.

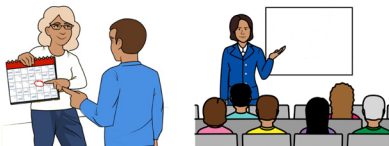


Regular contact means

- at least 6 contacts every 3 months with participants in the ***Intensive Service***



- at least 2 contacts every 3 months with participants in the ***Flexible Service***.



Contacts could be appointments, training or supports.



Intensive Service means high level support for participants to help them prepare for and find work.



Flexible Service means support for participants who are not able to participate in the Intensive Service.

For example

- because of personal or family reasons
- because they are doing other activities.

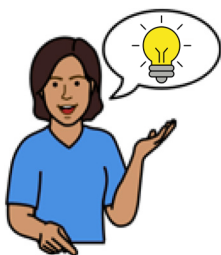
We want you to tell us



When would it be OK for the first interview to be done in a way other than face to face?



What should count as a contact?



How else can we make sure that participants are getting the right program supports and services?

Ongoing support



Participants can get ongoing support from the provider to make sure they can keep doing the important parts of their job.

Providers for everyone



We will make sure there are a lot of different providers who meet the needs of all participants and employers.



More information and questions about providers and ongoing support will be on our [DSS Engage web page](#)

www.engage.dss.gov.au/a-new-specialist-employment-disability-program-consultation

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