

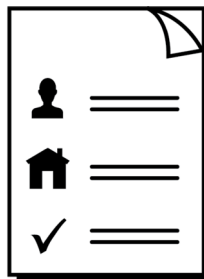


Australian Government
Department of Social Services



Draft plan for the National Panel of Assessors

Tell us your ideas



Easy Read

About this book



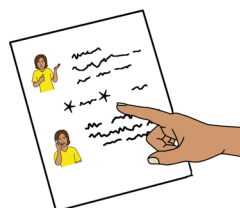
This book is from the
Department of Social Services.



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 National Panel of Assessors



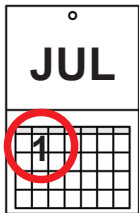
We have a ***National Panel of Assessors Program*** or NPA program.



The NPA program has people who do assessment services to support the needs of people with disability in the workplace.



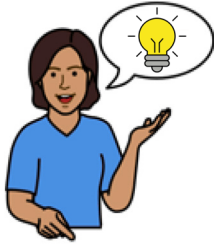
We are making some small changes to the NPA program.



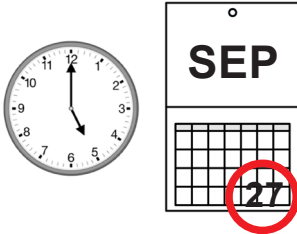
The changes will start from 1 July 2025.



We have shared our draft plan about the changes with the community.



We want to hear what you think about our ideas.



You must send us your ideas by
5 PM on Friday 27 September 2024.



You can send us your ideas by email.

Email DESConsultations@dss.gov.au



We will read everyone's ideas and write a
final plan.

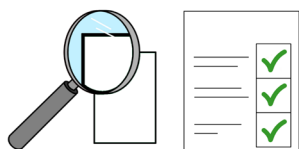


We will share our final plan with the community
later this year.

The NPA program



The NPA program delivers 3 kinds of ***assessments***.

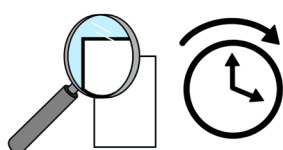


Assessments means we check what help people might need in the workplace.

***Supported Wage System* assessments**



The Supported Wage System is for employees with disability who are not able to perform jobs as quickly as other people.



An employee has an assessment to see how quickly they can do their work.



The results decide how much a person will be paid.

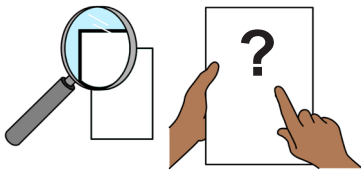


These assessments are delivered by assessors who work in the NPA program.

***Ongoing Support* assessments**



Ongoing Support is for people with disability who may need long term support to help them keep their job.



People will have an assessment to decide how much support they will need.



These assessments are delivered by assessors who work in the NPA program.



Ongoing Support is part of the new ***Specialist Disability Employment Program***.

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



You can read more about this new program in the [DSS Engage Easy Read information](#)

www.engage.dss.gov.au/wp-content/

[uploads/2024/08/sdepdraft-planeasy-readfinal.pdf](http://www.engage.dss.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/sdepdraft-planeasy-readfinal.pdf)

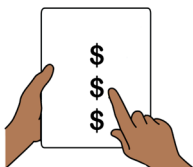
Workplace Modifications



Workplace Modifications are changes to your job or work place to make it more accessible.



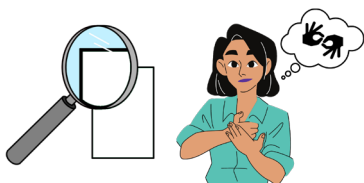
For example, adjustable height desks or Auslan services.



We have an ***Employment Assistance Fund***.



The fund gives financial help to people with disability and employers to buy equipment, Auslan services and supports.



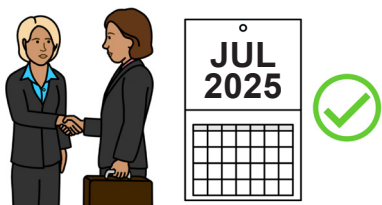
Sometimes, before things are bought, an assessment is done to decide if the item is suitable.



These assessments are delivered by assessors who work in the NPA program.

How the NPA program will work

Providers



Organisations can apply to be NPA program providers from 1 July 2025.



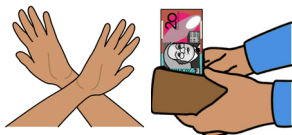
This can include current providers and new providers.



The chosen providers will deliver assessment services.



The changes will not affect people with disability who are assessed.



The assessments will still be free for employers and people with disability.



From 1 July there will be less providers in some areas.



This is to make sure assessors

- have enough work to do



- can make enough money.

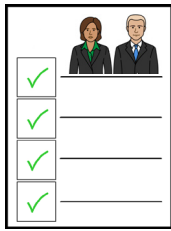


There will still be enough providers to deliver the assessments that are needed.



We will choose providers who can deliver good assessments for people with disability.

Performance



Providers must meet performance standards.



Providers must

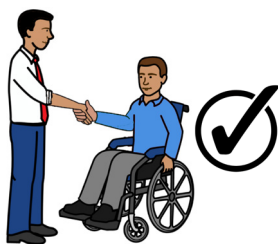
- accept the assessment quickly

or

- tell the department they cannot do the assessment.



People with disability will not need to wait too long for an assessment.



Providers must do the assessment right and in a way that is best for the person's needs.



Providers must make sure the assessment is high quality.



Fees and payments



NPA providers are paid for each assessment

- after it is finished



- when reports have been given to us.



The amount paid for each assessment will stay the same as it is now.



More information

More information will be on our

[DSS Engage web page](#)

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



There are more Easy Read books about this topic on the DSS Engage web page.

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