

Employment services are changing

The Australian Government is committed to building a strong and prosperous economy that promotes workforce participation and helps more job seekers move from welfare to work.

To achieve this, the Government is investing \$5 billion over three years from 1 July 2015 in new employment services called jobactive.

Starting on 1 July 2015, jobactive replaces Job Services Australia.

Remote areas will continue to receive services through the Remote Jobs and Communities Programme and jobactive will operate alongside Disability Employment Services in non-remote areas of Australia.

What services are available under jobactive?

There are five jobactive services:

- **jobactive organisations** will assist job seekers to find and keep a job and ensure employers are receiving candidates that meet their business needs
- **Work for the Dole Coordinators** will start on 1 May 2015 to source suitable Work for the Dole activities in not-for-profit organisations such as local councils, schools, community organisations and state and federal government agencies. These activities will help prepare job seekers for the work environment.
- the **New Enterprise Incentive Scheme** will help eligible job seekers to start and

run their own small business with support including accredited small business training, business advice and mentoring for up to 52 weeks as well as an allowance for up to 39 weeks.

- **Harvest Labour Services** and the **National Harvest Labour Information Service** will support the harvest requirements of growers in the horticulture industry. **Harvest Labour Services** will gather vacancies from growers, provide eligible job seekers with information, and supply harvest workers to horticultural producers in regions where there is a need for out-of-area harvest workers. The **National Harvest Labour Information Service** will coordinate information about harvest opportunities across Australia.

These arrangements will build on changes already introduced by the Government, including the Job Commitment Bonus for eligible young people who stay in work and off income support for at least 12 months, Restart wage subsidies for mature age job seekers and Relocation Assistance to Take Up A Job.

What services will job seekers receive?

Job seekers will have access to tailored help from a jobactive organisation, based on their assessed needs. This could include:

- help with looking for work, writing a resume and preparing for interviews
- referrals to jobs in their local area



- training that is suited to the skills that local employers need
 - case management so they are ready to take up and keep a job
 - support to complete Work for the Dole or other eligible activities to provide them with work-like experiences, to help them learn new skills and improve their chances of finding a job.
- job seekers aged 30 to 49 years will typically need to complete 15 hours per week of Work for the Dole or another approved activity for six months each year.
 - job seekers aged 50 to 59 years will typically need to complete 15 hours per week of an approved activity for six months each year.

What will job seekers need to do?

From 1 July 2015, most job seekers who have mutual obligation requirements (such as people on Newstart Allowance, Youth Allowance Other or Parenting Payment recipients with a youngest child at least six years of age) will need to:

- undertake 20 job searches per month, with their jobactive organisation able to tailor this requirement to a job seeker's individual circumstances and local labour market conditions
- enter into a Job Plan that will outline what they will do to become more job ready and satisfy their mutual obligation requirements
- complete Work for the Dole or another approved activity (such as part time work, part time study in an eligible course, participation in accredited language, literacy and numeracy training or voluntary work) for six months each year.
 - job seekers aged under 30 years will typically need to complete 25 hours per week of Work for the Dole or another approved activity for six months each year.

The frequency and quality of a job seeker's job searches will be actively monitored by jobactive organisations. They will make sure a job seeker meets their requirements in return for their income support and completes their Annual Activity Requirement.

Job seekers who have a partial work capacity or who are principal carer parents will have job search requirements tailored to their individual circumstances.

Job seekers who are 60 years of age or over will have job search requirements tailored to their individual circumstances and can volunteer for Work for the Dole or other approved activities.

Modern online and self-help facilities will help job seekers engage with employers and jobactive organisations.

Job seekers will have access to targeted training and assistance to help them become work ready. Wage subsidies for mature age, young, long term unemployed and Indigenous job seekers will also assist them to transition from welfare and stay in work.

Job seekers will change their jobactive organisation if they have not been employed for two years (or three years for those with

more complex non-vocational issues) for a fresh perspective to help them move off welfare and into work.

What do the changes mean for employers?

From 1 July 2015 there will be a new network of jobactive organisations across Australia who are sourcing and preparing job seekers to meet employers' needs.

Job seekers will take part in Work for the Dole or other activities to prepare them for the work environment. Any training that job seekers do will be relevant to what local employers need, and real job opportunities.

Other help includes screening and matching job seekers to vacancies, support for employers once a new employee starts or financial help through a wage subsidy for eligible job seekers who are young, mature age, long-term unemployed or Indigenous.

There will also simpler online services for employers who choose to manage their own vacancies through Australian JobSearch.

Who will deliver the new services?

A total of 66 organisations will deliver the new services across Australia. There will be:

- 44 jobactive organisations
- 19 Work for the Dole Coordinators
- 21 New Enterprise Incentive Scheme organisations
- five Harvest Labour Services organisations

- one National Harvest Labour Information Service organisation.

A full list of organisations is available at www.employment.gov.au/employment-services-procurement-information.

How were successful organisations selected?

An open tender was conducted to select high performing organisations to deliver the new services. The tender opened on 7 October 2014 and closed on 17 November 2014 and was highly competitive. The tender was overseen by Maddocks as the independent probity adviser.

A summary of the tender process is at www.employment.gov.au/employment-services-procurement-information.

Transition from current employment services

Transition arrangements for job seekers, employers and current employment service providers will support the move to the new model.

Further information about the transition arrangements is available at www.employment.gov.au/jobactive-transition.



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jobactive

More information

For further information:

- Go to www.employment.gov.au/jobactive
- If you are an employer call the Employer Hotline on 13 17 15*
- If you are a job seeker call the National Customer Service Line on 1300 854 414*.

Do you need help with this fact sheet?



If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450* and ask for 1300 854 414*



If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact the Employer Hotline or National Customer Service Line through the National Relay Service. For more information, visit www.relayservice.com.au

** Note that call charges apply for calls to '13' numbers from mobile phones*