



DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT SERVICES PARTICIPANT TRANSITION

From 1 March 2010, the new Disability Employment Services will provide job seekers with disability, injury or health condition with access to individually tailored employment services better suited to their needs, with stronger links to training and skills development.

A small number of people currently being assisted under Vocational Rehabilitation Services or Disability Employment Network may need to move to a new provider as a result of the open tender process for Disability Employment Services Program A or because their organisation has elected not to continue to deliver services from 1 March 2010.

The large majority of people will be able to remain with their current provider, although they will be able to choose an alternative provider if they wish.

For those individuals who are affected, thorough plans are in place to ensure a smooth transition in the lead up to the start of Disability Employment Services. Measures are also in place to ensure that participants continue to access services throughout the change to the new arrangements.

Assistance to participants prior to 28 February 2010

Participants who are already receiving Vocational Rehabilitation Services or Disability Employment Network services will continue to be supported through the current programs until the start of the new Disability Employment Services on 1 March 2010.

Participants will receive individual letters in mid January 2010, advising them about the new Disability Employment Services and letting them know if they will change to a new service provider.

All participants will be able to choose their preferred Disability Employment Services provider, even if their current provider is going to be delivering the new services from March 2010.

Providers will also be in close contact with participants and employers to support them through the transition.

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations will work closely with those organisations that will not be continuing to ensure participants are not disadvantaged. The Department will also support these organisations to wind up their current service arrangements.

Assistance to participants after 1 March 2010.

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations will also work very closely with new organisations to ensure they are fully operational by 1 March 2010.

There will be no gap in service delivery for participants. Organisations will also communicate closely with employers of people in ongoing support to ensure they are fully aware of any changes.

If a participant or employer has any concerns or questions about the service he or she is receiving, they should contact the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Customer Service Line on **1800 805 260**.

