



Australian Government



## JOB SERVICES AUSTRALIA—INNOVATION FUND

**The \$41m Innovation Fund will focus on innovative ways to connect disadvantaged job seekers to training and employment.**

The Innovation Fund complements the Australian Government's new, more effective employment services, Job Services Australia, that will commence from 1 July 2009.

Replacing the inflexible 'one size fits all' approach of the previous system, job seekers will receive tailored assistance to help them on their pathway to employment.

### Helping the most disadvantaged jobseekers

The Innovation Fund will support fund projects that offer innovative place-based solutions to address barriers to employment for groups of the most disadvantaged job seekers.

This could include people in locations with entrenched disadvantage, the homeless, people with mental health conditions, Indigenous Australians and job seekers in jobless families.

Flexibility under the Fund has been maximised to ensure innovation can flourish. Partnerships will be encouraged with a range of community and health organisations, employers, and State, Territory and local governments.

### Innovation Fund Panel

Organisations must be a member of the Innovation Fund Panel in order to access the Innovation Fund. The initial selection of Panel members was conducted through the Request for Tender for Employment Services 2009–12.

The 198 successful Innovation Fund Panel members were announced 3 March 2009. The Innovation Fund Panel includes organisations with a wide range of expertise, including experience with homelessness, youth, disability and Indigenous Australians.

Non-panel members may directly approach Innovation Fund Panel members to collaborate on proposals. Non-panel members may also forward ideas for activities directly to

the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. If it is decided that the idea has significant positive aspects, the Department may ask panel members to form partnerships to develop and implement these ideas.

### Innovation Fund Projects

Depending on specific needs of particular groups of disadvantaged individuals and communities, the Department may also invite submissions for activities or ideas from relevant groups within the panel.

Successful projects will be those that provide job seekers facing the greatest barriers to employment with genuine opportunities to become work ready and increase their chances of finding employment.

### Next steps

Round One of the Innovation Fund projects will commence on 1 July 2009.

The Department will from time to time run sessions with stakeholders to discuss in more detail how potential projects can be developed in a way that promotes innovation and multi-agency partnerships, in the context of better employment outcomes for job seekers facing the greatest barriers to employment.

Agencies wishing to discuss ideas may also contact Keith Stephens, Director, Innovation Fund, Social Inclusion and Participation Group on **02 6121 3711**.

Further information on the Innovation Fund, including panel members and the Guidelines for Innovation fund projects are available at [www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/JSA/Pages/innovationfund.aspx](http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/JSA/Pages/innovationfund.aspx). This page will be updated regularly as new information is made available.

Feedback or requests for further information should be sent to the Innovation Fund email address at [innovation.fund@deewr.gov.au](mailto:innovation.fund@deewr.gov.au).

For comprehensive information on Job Services Australia, please visit [workplace.gov.au/ESreview](http://workplace.gov.au/ESreview) or email DEEWR at [feedback@deewr.gov.au](mailto:feedback@deewr.gov.au).