



A new remote employment service

The Australian Government is reforming remote employment by replacing the Community Development Program (CDP) in two stages, in partnership with remote communities.

1. The first stage is the new Remote Jobs and Economic Development (RJED) program, initially creating 3000 new jobs in remote Australia over three years.
2. The second stage is the design and delivery of a new remote employment service. The new service will replace CDP with a flexible employment service across remote Australia.

It will better support job seekers in remote Australia to upskill, find pathways to work and contribute to their community. It will differ from the old program by leading with a strengths-based approach, supporting providers to work collaboratively with communities on projects and with job seekers to understand their needs.

CDP services will continue to support remote job seekers and we will work to ensure a smooth transition between programs.

How will the new remote employment service work?

The new remote employment service will support job seekers in remote Australia who are currently receiving income support payments to build their skills and address barriers to employment.

It will support 42,000 job seekers across 1200 communities in remote employment service (RES) regions (currently known as [CDP regions](#)).

The service will:

- Help job seekers prepare for work, move into a job when available and stay employed with greater access to mentoring and tailored support.
- Support job seekers where work is not available through engagement in community projects that build their skills and help them become job ready. These projects give communities more flexibility to design solutions locally, tailored for individual needs.
- Change the way providers are funded, incentivising improved service delivery in critical areas, such as employment placement support (currently known as post placement support).
- In a small number of regions, trial local approaches to build language, literacy and numeracy as these are foundational skills for getting a job.
- Trial how existing job seeker assessment processes could be improved so that job seekers feel supported and comfortable, with providers identifying barriers as well as strengths and skills.
- Provide an increased investment in training and resources to deliver higher quality, culturally safe services tailored to remote job seekers.



Job seekers will still be required to agree to a job plan, attend regular appointments, and accept suitable paid work.

There will be opportunities for improvement throughout implementation of the service to reflect further community and stakeholder feedback.

How will the new service be different to CDP and CDEP?

What we know is that the current CDP is not working for everyone. The new remote employment service will be more flexible and address the barriers to employment opportunities that job seekers have faced for many years (including training and skill development opportunities). It will also link participants with suitable employment opportunities, including those created through the RJED program.

Participation in activities to meet mutual obligation requirements will remain voluntary for the first two years. Any changes to compulsory activity attendance in 2027 will be made in alignment with broader employment service reforms.

The new service will also abide by new workplace rules and laws that have come into place since CDEP including:

- Requirements for Working with Vulnerable People or Working with Children checks to protect vulnerable people and children from harm.
- New Work Health and Safety laws have also been introduced to manage risks to the health and safety of everyone in a job.

It's important to the Government that the service works for job seekers in remote communities and complements existing policies led by other Government departments, while also aligning with broader employment policy reforms.

For more information

- Visit www.niaa.gov.au/remote-services
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