# Community Development Program (CDP) Frequently Asked Questions

The following information is about the 2021-22 Budget reforms to the Community Development Program (CDP). The Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP also announced changes to the Indigenous Skills and Employment program (ISEP). For further information on changes to ISEP See [ISEP](https://www.niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/employment/indigenous-skills-and-employment-program-isep) on the NIAA website.

## What is changing?

* The Australian Government will introduce a new remote jobs program in 2023, replacing the CDP. This new program will be co-designed with Indigenous communities, CDP providers and key stakeholders to better fit the changing job market and meet the unique needs of job seekers in remote communities. It will also complement the broader New Employment Services Model being rolled out in the latter half of 2022.
* The new remote jobs program will be piloted in a number of locations from late 2021. Pilot sites will be announced over the coming months.
* You can read [Minister Wyatt’s recent media release about the proposed new program](https://ministers.pmc.gov.au/wyatt/2021/jobs-and-education-secure-future-indigenous-australians).

## Why is the CDP being modified?

* The Government wants to ensure that Indigenous Australians are part of our economic recovery plan by delivering the support they need to build skills, address barriers and find employment.
* The Government has heard what communities and stakeholders have said about the CDP.
* The new remote jobs program will be designed to better fit the changing job market and meet the unique needs of job seekers in remote communities.
* Program features will be co-designed with Indigenous communities and key stakeholders in the coming months, with more information to be announced about these processes.
* Changes to the CDP will ensure the existing program better meets the individual needs of job seekers and supports their ongoing engagement in employment and training opportunities.

## Why is the Government modifying CDP now?

* There will be some changes to the Mutual Obligation Requirements under the CDP so service providers can provide a greater focuses on assisting jobseekers to look for and take on employment as the economy recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.
* These changes will also allow communities and providers to work together in different ways to encourage job seekers to engage in the program. This will help inform development of new program settings.

## What will the new remote jobs program look like?

* Ultimately, the form of the new remote jobs program will depend on the co-design process, which will trial new ways of engaging job seekers and building skills that better respond to the unique circumstances they experience in remote Australia.
* As a first step, the NIAA will pilot the new program in a number of locations from late 2021.
* As well as pilot sites, Local communities, State and Territory governments, business and Government service providers will be consulted during the design of the new remote jobs program.
* The design of the new remote jobs program will better tailor the support job seekers need to find and secure work as the economy recovers.

## When will the new program start?

* The Government intends to replace the CDP with a new remote jobs program in 2023.
* Changes to Mutual Obligation Requirements will take affect from 12 May 2021.
* The NIAA will pilot the new remote jobs program in a number of locations in late 2021 following a co-design process.

## When will pilot sites be announced?

* The pilot sites will be announced over the coming months and will reflect remote Australia’s regional and economic diversity.

## Why are Mutual Obligation Requirements changing?

* The Government’s long-standing policy remains that it is fair and reasonable to expect unemployed people to do their best to improve their skills and increase their employment prospects in return for receiving income support.
* All CDP job seekers will still be required to meet their Mutual Obligation Requirements, but there will be some changes. From 12 May 2021, job seekers will be able to participate in activities on voluntary basis. They will continue to have some compulsory requirements, such as attending appointments with service providers or looking for work.
* Changes to the Mutual Obligation Requirements will allow job seekers to focus on job opportunities as the economy recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

## What are the Mutual Obligation Requirement changes?

* As part of the lead up to the roll out of a new remote jobs program in 2023, Mutual Obligations Requirements for all CDP job seekers will make activities voluntary.
* Under the modified arrangements, job seekers must continue to meet mutual obligations that require them to:
	+ agree to a job plan.
	+ attend and behave appropriately at provider appointments, third party appointments and job interviews.
	+ meet job search requirements – if appropriate, depending on the strength of the local labour market.
	+ accept suitable paid work when it is offered.
	+ not to voluntarily leave suitable employment.
* CDP job seekers will continue to be supported by their providers to find employment and work with communities.

## Where can I find more information?

* More information about the proposed new program will become available on this website in the coming months, this will include information on public consultations.
* If you are an existing CDP job seeker you can contact your provider for more information.