

DSS GRANTS PROGRAMS REDESIGN STATUS (AS AT MAY 2018)

PROGRAM (SUB PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY)	REASON FOR REDESIGN	HOW LONG IS REDESIGN EXPECTED TO TAKE?	WHAT CONSULTATION WILL OCCUR?	WHAT WILL BE THE EXPECTED IMPACT OF REDESIGN?	WHAT CHANGES ARE LIKELY TO BE MADE?	WHEN ARE NEW GRANTS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE?	CHANGE SINCE 2018 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES
Disability and Carer Service Improvement and Sector Support	To ensure the policy and program is fit-for-purpose, and to ensure improved performance of funded organisations.	Redesign of program guidelines and regulations (Schedule 1AB Item 52) were complete by 30 June 2017.	Redesign consultations with other agencies were held ahead of the engagement of external consultants to discuss performance of current program funding arrangements with key sector stakeholders.	Redesign aims to ensure funding is well targeted and leads to improved performance and accountability of funded organisations. Redesign will encourage flexibility in models of funding for organisations.	<p>Program redesign will provide greater clarity on Government priorities for disability reform and engagement with the sector.</p> <p>Redesign also encourages strong community engagement and consultation.</p> <p>New Disability Representative Organisation Grant Opportunity Guidelines developed for opening of the grant round.</p>	<p>The grant round was open between 24 August and 6 October 2017.</p> <p>New grants commenced on 1 January 2018.</p>	<p>Grant agreements have been executed.</p> <p>Redesign is now complete.</p>
Strengthening Communities (Community Development and Participation, Multicultural Affairs, Volunteering-redesigned as Strong and Resilient Communities	To better align activities with relevant legislation and target investment against Government priorities such as building social cohesion and addressing emerging community need.	Redesign was undertaken as part of the 2016-17 Budget and MYEFO processes and within the existing Strengthening Communities appropriation.	<p>From January through to March 2017, the Department consulted with organisations currently funded to deliver Strengthening Communities projects about the redesign in writing, face-to-face and by telephone.</p> <p>All input provided to the Department, where possible, was used to inform the 2017 grants process.</p>	The redesign established three activities: the Strong and Resilient Communities grants program, and continuation of the Volunteer Management Program and Volunteer Grants.	<p>The redesign places a greater emphasis on collaboration amongst organisations to develop whole-of-community approaches to emerging community challenges relating to social cohesion and community resilience.</p> <p>The majority of organisations previously funded to deliver Strengthening Communities projects were eligible to apply for funding, subject to grants processes.</p>	New grants commenced on 1 April 2018.	<p>All but one grant agreement have been executed.</p> <p>The Department is working with the grant recipient to finalise the one outstanding Strong and Resilient Communities agreement.</p> <p>Redesign is now complete.</p>

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Financial Wellbeing and Capability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Counselling and Capability • Emergency Relief and Food Relief • Microfinance (Financial Resilience) 	To ensure that grant activities conform to relevant legislation and continue to achieve Government policy objectives.	Redesign is expected to be complete by 31 December 2018.	<p>In February 2017, the Department released a discussion paper 'Future Directions of the Financial Wellbeing and Capability Activity' through its engage.dss.gov.au website.</p> <p>The Department also consulted with a number of individual service providers and peak bodies in 2017 and early 2018 due to the complex nature of the redesign.</p>	<p>The Financial Wellbeing and Capability redesign will ensure the appropriate targeting and alignment of services with Government priorities.</p> <p>The redesign will also ensure the Activity has clear links with the Government's constitutional powers. Changes to the eligibility criteria for the Activity are required to reduce constitutional risk.</p>	<p>Details of the redesigned Activity are being finalised and service providers will be advised of the outcome as soon as possible.</p> <p>The redesign of the Activity will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved targeting of services; • strengthened service integration between service providers to address underlying issues causing financial crisis; • improved self-reliance and workforce participation of clients; and • building a strong workforce through the implementation of a workforce development package and to better assist clients with complex needs. 	1 January 2019.	Offers to extend existing grant agreements to 31 December 2018 are currently being finalised.
Reconnect (Youth Homelessness)	To explore ways to strengthen the program to better assist young people at risk of homelessness.	Redesign is expected to be complete by 30 June 2018.	<p>Independent consultants were engaged to facilitate 14 co-design workshops in May and June 2017 with around 200 participants from 119 organisations (Reconnect, state government, and related services). The Department also conducted small group discussions with 29 young people who access the Reconnect service.</p> <p>Based on feedback from the consultations, there was overwhelming support for moving Reconnect back up the early intervention continuum to better meet its aim of preventing youth homelessness while maintaining its core elements.</p>	More young people in need of assistance are identified early and have access to services before they become homeless or disengaged.	Increased focus on early intervention and prevention aspects of this ongoing program.	1 July 2018.	<p>The grant opportunity for existing Reconnect grant recipients closed on 28 March 2018.</p> <p>New grant agreement offers are being finalised and will be offered to existing Reconnect providers shortly.</p> <p>Redesign is now complete.</p>

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Families and Communities Service Improvement	To ensure that grant activities conform with relevant legislation and continue to achieve Government policy objectives.	Redesign is expected to be completed by 30 June 2018.	In accordance with best practice, a letter was sent on 16 January 2018 to each existing grant recipient advising that a grant opportunity would open around March 2018. Face-to-face meetings were also held with each existing grant recipient during the week 22-26 January 2018 advising that the Activity required small changes, and providing further information about the grant opportunity and Community Grants Hub processes.	Grant recipients will no longer be able to utilise funding under the Activity to undertake advocacy. The revised Activity will have an increased focus on funding projects that provide evidence and advice about the Government's social policy and the Department's programs, policy and initiatives.	The Activity has been redesigned based on advice from the Australian Government Solicitor. Permissible activities are set out in the guidelines for the current grant opportunity, which closed on 13 April 2018.	1 July 2018.	The six existing grant recipients were invited to apply through a restricted/competitive grant opportunity that closed on 13 April 2018. The Department has commenced issuing Letters of variation and revised grant schedules to successful providers. Redesign is now complete.
Print Disability Services Program	To ensure policy and program is fit-for-purpose in the context of swiftly changing technologies and the NDIS.	Redesign is complete.	Independent consultants have been engaged to conduct a review of print disability policy and programs and make recommendations. They will consult with key stakeholders including users of these programs.	No duplication with National Disability Insurance Scheme supports. Renewed focus on people with print disability who are most disadvantaged in their access to relevant supports. Increased value for money.	Some modifications to the operational guidelines and reporting requirements will be made to ensure funding is targeted at the most disadvantaged groups.	1 July 2018.	Successful applicants have been notified and new grant agreements are being finalised. Redesign is now complete.
Postal Concessions for the Blind	To ensure policy and program is fit-for-purpose in the context of swiftly changing technologies and the National Disability Insurance Scheme.	Redesign is complete.	Independent consultants have been engaged to conduct a review of print disability policy and programs and make recommendations. They will be consulted with all key stakeholders including users of these programs.	Renewed focus on people with print disability who are most disadvantaged in their access to relevant supports.	Changes proposed include improving its promotion and moving the program to an e-parcel system.	1 July 2018.	New grant agreements are being finalised. Redesign is now complete.

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Disability Employment Services	<p>Disability Employment Services achieves modest outcomes.</p> <p>Around one-third of participants are in employment three months after completing a period of assistance in these services.</p> <p>To improve performance, the Department engaged with the disability employment sector to identify opportunities to improve the program.</p>	<p>Reforms were announced as part of the 2017-18 Budget. The new model commences on 1 July 2018.</p>	<p>Extensive consultation with people with disability and disability employment service providers took place during 2015 and 2016. In April 2015, the Government established a Disability Employment Taskforce to consult stakeholders on the strengths and weaknesses of the current approach to disability employment.</p> <p>The taskforce consulted with people with disability, their carers and families, disability advocates, service providers, disability peak bodies and employers of people with disability to identify areas for reform.</p> <p>Feedback from these consultations informed the development of a discussion paper publicly released by Minister Porter and Assistant Minister Prentice in November 2016. The paper outlined specific proposals for reform, for the sector's consideration and feedback.</p> <p>In addition to accepting written submissions, the Department used a number of forums to support the public consultation process, including establishing an expert working group to discuss specific proposals being considered. Members on the working group included organisations representing the interests of people with disability, service providers and employers.</p> <p>The consultation process found broad sector support for the general direction of the planned reforms.</p> <p>Following the announcement of reforms in the 2017-18 Budget, the Department has conducted 12 face-to-face industry information sessions across Australia and a webinar to promote the reforms.</p> <p>The Department also established the Transition Reference Group, comprised of sector representatives to obtain feedback on the implementation of the reforms.</p>	<p>The reforms aim to improve performance at getting more people with disability into employment.</p>	<p>The 2017-18 Budget includes significant reforms to DES.</p> <p>Key changes to Disability Employment Services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improving participant choice and control in the services they receive and how they receive them; engendering greater competition between providers to drive performance; strengthening the link between provider revenue and performance in placing and supporting participants in employment; undertaking a trial of possible expansion of eligibility for school leavers; and indexing provider payments at a cost of \$300 million over the next 10 years. 	<p>1 July 2018.</p>	<p>The selection round has been finalised. The final panel of Disability Employment Services providers was announced in April 2018.</p> <p>Redesign is now complete.</p>
Family and Relationship Services	<p>To ensure that grants activities conform to relevant legislation and continue to achieve Government policy objectives.</p>	<p>Approximately 12 months, ahead of existing grants expiring in 2019.</p>	<p>Redesign will be conducted in consultation with the sector.</p>	<p>Redesign will tighten the link between funded services and desired outcomes.</p>	<p>Program proposal still to be submitted to Government.</p>	<p>1 July 2019.</p>	<p>Redesign remains in progress.</p>

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National Disability Advocacy Program	To ensure the program is able to provide advocacy to people with disability effectively and efficiently in the National Disability Insurance Scheme environment.	Consultation began in April 2016 and has continued since then in various forms. Redesign is in progress.	Multiple and ongoing engagements with stakeholders – online, group meetings, individual discussions and focus groups.	Improved access to advocacy by people with disability regardless of location and issue. Staged implementation of reforms that will streamline funding arrangements, improve coordination and use of systemic issues information, and increase access for hard-to-reach groups.	Existing grant agreements will be extended to 30 June 2020. The Department will work with funded agencies and other stakeholders to implement the reforms.	1 July 2020.	Government has approved an additional \$2.4 million a year for the program, targeting New South Wales and Queensland. Modifications to grant agreements to support their extension is underway.
National Disability Insurance Scheme Appeals program	The program has been in trial phase since 2013 because it was a new approach and activity. Redesign will include development of an approach to expanding the program and learning from the trial.	Redesign is in progress.	Consultation with key stakeholders has been ongoing. An independent review was conducted in 2015 and included consultation of people with disability that used the program supports. An external advisory group has been established to test options for future design.	Responsive and accessible advocacy and legal supports for people with disability requiring information and assistance to take decisions of the National Disability Insurance Agency to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. Ministers agreed in July 2017 to expansion of the program and extension of grant agreements to June 2020. There will be some modifications to the delivery of legal services under the program to improve responsiveness.	Services are to be made available nationally. The Legal Aid Commissions will be funded to provide legal advice, individual legal representation and assessment of cases for legal assistance under the program (currently they are only funded to provide individual representation on a capped amount). This will expand access to legal services under the program.	1 July 2020.	Grant agreement extensions have been executed. Current program outputs are being monitored to inform future funding levels.