

## FaHCSIA-funded Australian Disability Enterprise Retirement Pilots

The three ADE retirement pilots that FaHCSIA is funding are

<a href="#">Koomarri</a>	ACT
<a href="#">Tulgeen</a>	NSW
<a href="#">Vantage</a>	Victoria

FaHCSIA has published the following information on the pilots:

Three pilot programs are currently underway to assist older employees with disability with education and retirement support options.

The pilots aim to test pathways for older employees with disability from Australian Disability Enterprises into mainstream retirement options within the community.

The Transition to Retirement Pilots are a response to findings from research commissioned by FaHCSIA into ageing and retirement in the Australian Disability Enterprise workforce.

Australian Disability Enterprises taking part in the pilots are Vantage in Warrnambool, Victoria, Tulgeen in Bega, New South Wales and Koomarri in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory.

The pilots in Victoria and New South Wales will incorporate training for Australian Disability Enterprises to help educate older employees about retirement and planning for retirement. This training, to be delivered by CRS Australia, will provide Australian Disability Enterprise support staff with the skills and knowledge to undertake the six client education sessions covered in the '*When I'm at work: Retirement planning flipchart*' with older employees.

After receiving retirement education and being assisted to make a retirement plan, older employees with disability will have an opportunity to trial retirement options in the local community. This may include a wide range of activities - from attending outings and events with the local senior citizens group, to playing sports, going shopping, having coffee with friends, arts and craft sessions, volunteering and more.

The pilot underway in the Australian Capital Territory will look at the benefits of social role valorisation training to assist mainstream community service providers understand the needs of older people with disability and include them in their activities. The training aims to develop positive attitudes toward ageing and devalued people in the community and remove the misinformation that may exist regarding disability.

The pilots will be formally evaluated by ARTD consultants. The evaluation will play a key part in developing further policy responses to the issues associated with ageing employees in Australian Disability Enterprises.

The pilots are expected to run until July 2011.

## **Disability service organisations involved in planning**

Many disability service organisations are involved in planning with clients and their families, but there is a significant population of people with disability and carers who are only marginally involved with services, or not at all involved.

In 2007–08, 245,000 people received some form of support from specialist disability service funded under the CSTDA (now National Disability Agreement). Many of these people – particularly those receiving accommodation support and community access services - are engaged in regular (usually yearly) planning. When done thoroughly, this planning involves families and informal carers as well as the person with disability and it considers longer-term future needs as well as developing a plan for the coming year or so. Families with ageing carers often need additional assistance to start putting in place arrangements in preparation for changed circumstances into the future.

About two-thirds of the potential population (people with severe or profound disability aged under 65 years) do not currently receive any form of specialist support services. While they may receive some services, such as HACC or respite, they will typically miss out on regular and detailed planning processes that identify future as well as current needs.

Of particular concern are the people with disability who first come into contact with the service system at a time of crisis. They are not connected with any services and may find the sudden engagement with unfamiliar people and places very disconcerting. Carers of these people, if they can be identified, will often need significant support and encouragement to have in place emergency plans as well as plans for the future.

Please let me know if the Committee requires further information

Regards

Ken Baker