

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Social Services Portfolio
2014-15 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 751

Topic: Disability Employment Services

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Brown asked:

What is the Government doing to remove the many barriers that people with disability face when looking for appropriate and secure employment?

Answer:

The Australian Government is investing more than \$3.85 billion in the Disability Employment Services (DES) programme over the next four years to help people with disability to find and maintain work in the open labour market.

The Government contracts DES providers to deliver uncapped open employment services for job seekers with disability and their prospective employers, including individualised, tailored assistance and supports with an emphasis on employment, skills development, education and training, and informed choice. DES has a strong focus on sustainable employment services for participants and their employers, an outcomes-focused fee structure, and ongoing support in the workplace available for people who need support to retain their job.

The DES programme provides flexible support for employers with a range of services and incentives to encourage employers to employ people with disability.

The JobAccess service, for example, features a comprehensive, easy-to-use website and a free telephone information and advice service where individuals, job seekers and employers can access confidential, expert advice on all disability employment matters. Other supports include: access to wage subsidies for employers and provision of ongoing workplace support for as long as the job seeker requires; assistance through the National Disability Recruitment Coordinator to help large employers to recruit people with disability; provision of immediate support for people who are at risk of losing their job as a result of their disability, injury or health condition to ensure they can continue working with their current employer; and the Employment Assistance Fund which can assist employers with the purchase of work related modifications, specialist services and disability awareness training.