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Welfare to Work

CVGT is a Job Network Member with over 20 offices throughout Victoria and NSW. CVGT represents approximately 1% of Australia's unemployed. CVGT has already been working with small numbers of the groups affected by the Welfare to Work in many cases with some success.

CVGT is in a position to individually tailor programs to meet the needs of these groups and develop appropriate responses to meet their needs.

Individual case managers get to know the individuals and then design a program which may start with our consultants motivating the client and then possibly coordinating activities or pre vocational training to get the client job ready.

CVGT places approximately 50 people into employment each month and we are finding that in some cases there is a shortage of jobseekers. The Welfare to Work initiative may go to alleviate this problem. Of particular interest will be the parents returning to work. We are already getting small numbers of parents registering with CVGT and we are finding them, in most cases, very employable.

CVGT also follows a job seeker once they have been placed into employment for a period 6 months. This is crucial to ensure long-term employment. With the Welfare to Work package, this aspect of the business will become even more employment.



INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS CERTIFICATIONS
Lic No R61/029

In some cases through lack of communication and education, we are seeing some problems. For example, a lady registered for work and got a full time job as she felt she was under pressure to do so. When she started work she found the cost of fuel and childcare too expensive and to compound this she was going through a divorce at the time. It all got too much and last week she attempted suicide.

Since this incident we have advocated for this woman to go to Centrelink were she would be reassessed.

The point is that in some cases the normal processes for classifying a job seeker as having barriers to employment so funds can be accessed to assist in their transition to work don't apply to the target groups.

While parents will fit reasonably well into the existing system, we find that those coming in from a disability payment often need extra assistance and can be at times difficult to place. CVGT has been working with disability providers for some time and are able to deal with larger numbers from a procedural point of view. The challenge will be finding work for those with disabilities. This is not to say that it doesn't happen. But based on past experience, this will be an area we will need to focus on.

Overall, the Welfare to Work initiative will benefit CVGT by giving us access to more job seekers. The downside is that some of these job seekers will have barriers to work. It would make the transition easier if job seekers could be classified as disadvantaged so they can get the support and assistance that, based on our experience, will be needed in some cases to ensure that a long term employment outcome can be achieved.

A campaign of communication and education is needed as many of the target groups are unsure of the affect the package will have on them and in some cases are acting based on fear.