



Australian Government
**Department of Education,
Skills and Employment**

**Deputy Secretary
Nathan Smyth**

Dear Chief Executive Officer

COVID-19—Perth Western Australia

As announced by Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, the Australian Government has lifted mutual obligation requirements for job seekers and participants in the Perth Metropolitan, Peel and South West regions of Western Australia. These arrangements will be in place from today, 1 February 2021 until at least Tuesday 9 February 2021.

These arrangements mean all mutual obligation requirements will be voluntary— no compliance action will be taken and no one's payments will be suspended. Job seekers and participants will not be penalised for not meeting their mutual obligation requirements, such as signing their Job Plan, attending, or reporting their attendance at appointments or activities.

Special Circumstances Exemptions continue to be available through Services Australia for job seekers who require them.

These arrangements apply to job seekers and participants with mutual obligations across employment services programs - jobactive, Online Employment Services, Disability Employment Services and ParentsNext.

The department will send an SMS directly to job seekers and participants advising them of this update.

This arrangement will be closely monitored and reviewed prior to 9 February 2021, giving consideration to advice from the Western Australian Government and the evolving nature of the situation.

I urge you and your staff to continue to follow the guidance of health officials during this time.

If you have any questions, please contact your Account Manager.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan Smyth', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Nathan Smyth
1 February 2021