



MEDIA RELEASE

26 September 2023

NESA welcomes roadmap to a more inclusive and diverse Australian workforce

National Employment Services Association (NESA), the peak body for Australian employment services sector, welcomes the release of the Australian Government's *White Paper on Jobs and Opportunities – Working Future* and its vision for a dynamic and inclusive labour market.

NESA Chief Executive, Kathryn Mandla, said all Australians should have the opportunity and support to access the dignity of paid work and to contribute to the country's economic growth.

"The White Paper provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to fundamentally transform our approach to employment and provide the best possible outcome for those struggling to find work or gain more work," said Ms Mandla.

"Secure, stable and meaningful employment is the pathway out of entrenched disadvantage, but access to the labour market is not shared equally.

"Our sector has long argued that work-first and job seeker compliance policies emphasise short term exits from welfare without resourcing the support and training needed for jobs seekers to secure better-quality and ongoing employment. Unfortunately, this increases the risk that job seekers fall into unemployment again", said Ms Mandla.

"We welcome the roadmap's focus on investment in people's potential and connecting them to broader social supports that overcome individual barriers to workforce participation.

"NESA's National Conference in Brisbane from 11-12 October is a key opportunity for the employment services sector, community organisations and government to explore the best way to bring this jobs roadmap to life," said Ms Mandla.

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Media contact:

Orla Thompson
0403 852 800 | media@nesa.com.au

About NESA

The National Employment Services Association (NESA) is the peak body for the Australian employment services sector. Our member organisations support more than 500,000 Australians facing barriers to work to find sustainable, ongoing employment through tailored labour assistance programs, vocational education and training, and wrap-around social and health services. Through knowledge exchange and partnerships with respected national and international universities and research institutes, NESA works with government, not-for-profit organisations and the private sector to support design and delivery of effective labour market assistance and social policy. We advocate for an inclusive Australian workforce that offers employment opportunities for all Australians who can and want to work.

For more information, visit nesa.com.au

