

MEDIA RELEASE

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NESA welcomes the release of IEA tender outcomes and affirms support for sector transition

The National Employment Services Association (NESA) welcomes the public release of the successful tenderers for the Inclusive Employment Australia (IEA) program, and congratulates the 83 organisations that have been offered contracts to deliver these vital services from 1 November 2025. NESA also congratulates the 25 National Panel of Assessor providers awarded contracts to support the needs of people with disability in the workplace.

IEA marks a significant and positive shift in the delivery of disability employment support, with a strong focus on improving outcomes for people with disability.

"We are encouraged by the direction of IEA, which places people with disability at the centre of the new model," said Kathryn Mandla, CEO of NESA. "We congratulate the successful organisations and look forward to seeing them help shape a more inclusive employment landscape."

At the same time, NESA is acutely aware that the market has undergone considerable change and that many current Disability Employment Services (DES) providers were not successful in this process. This transition will affect not only the organisations involved but also their dedicated staff and the people with disability they have supported for many years.

"This is a moment of change that comes with real human impact," said Ms Mandla. "Many of our sector's frontline workers have lived experience of disability or other disadvantage. Their deep insight and commitment must be recognised and, wherever possible, retained in the sector."

NESA is working closely with the Department of Social Services (DSS) to ensure a smooth transition for all providers, with a strong emphasis on continuity for participants and workforce stability.

"We are actively engaging with both incoming and outgoing providers to encourage sensible and practical solutions—such as job-matching opportunities, lease transfers and shared use of infrastructure—to minimise disruption to services and maximise job security for frontline staff," Ms Mandla said.



NESA has been appointed by DSS to deliver Market Adjustment Support services throughout the transition period. This includes providing assistance with transition planning, workforce support, and access to key resources and tools.

Support will also extend to helping new providers understand their contractual obligations, and ensuring all providers—both new and continuing—have access to information that supports strong and compliant service delivery under IEA.

"Our focus is on practical, people-first support," said Ms Mandla. "We want every provider—new or existing—to feel confident navigating the transition, and every participant to experience as little disruption as possible."

A dedicated transition support email has been established at IEASupport@nesa.com.au and further resources will be made available later this week on the new NESA IEA transition webpage at [Inclusive Employment Australia Market Adjustment Support – NESA](#).

NESA remains committed to standing alongside the sector as it navigates this time of reform—and to ensuring the strength, insight, and resilience of the disability employment workforce is sustained into the future.

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