

Employment Services Industry welcomes tender announcements

The peak body for providers of Government employment services, NESA*, today welcomed the announcement by the Minister for Employment Participation, Mr Brendan O'Connor that the tender process for the delivery of Government funded employment services has been finalised.

Sally Sinclair, CEO of NESA said: "While our members are anxious to hear the full detail of what contracts have been awarded, we are very pleased that the tender process has finished and the industry can now begin the transition to the new contracts."

"We are pleased that there has been extensive consultation with the Employment Services Industry, via our Association, about how to improve the provision of services to the unemployed," Sally said.

These improvements will be incorporated into the new contracts and there will be an entirely new model of employment service provision, Sally explained.

The new model will replace the old Job Network and will be known as *Job Services Australia*. *Job Services Australia* incorporates seven separate employment services programs into a 'one-stop-shop' that will provide job seekers with a more personalised service.

"While many of our members have been successful in the tender process, the Minister's announcement that there will be assistance made available to those organisations that are unsuccessful and need help to readjust and to realign their businesses, is very welcome," Sally said.

These organisations will be able to apply to a \$3.5 million Business Adjustment Fund and NESA will be working with its members to support them through this process, Sally said.

Sally also welcomed the Minister's commitment to provide funding to NESA so an Employment Connect service could be immediately established to help employees who are adversely affected to find work with other providers.

"Our primary objective will be to retain the much needed skills of these professional staff in the industry," Sally said.

"We will set up the Employment Connect service so that any employees adversely affected by the new tender outcomes may register with NESA if they would like to work with another employment service provider," Sally said.

The site may also be used by organisations that are seeking facilities and other resources such as offices, computers etc, Sally said.

"Our members provide a much needed service to Australians looking for work, and this service is even more important now during this time of global financial crisis," she said

"We are confident that the new model of service provision announced by the Government today, will better the needs of Australia's job seekers now and into the future," Sally concluded.

**NESA, the National Employment Services Association is the peak, representative industry body for all providers of Australian Government contracted employment and related services.*
www.nesa.com.au

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