

24 February 2009



## Retrenched workers get immediate help

The Federal Government's announcement today that intensive, personalised employment services will be made immediately available to retrenched workers was very welcome, timely and well targeted, NESAs, the peak body for the employment and related services industry, said today.

"The announcement today will mean that anyone who is retrenched will be able to immediately access the individualized services they need to help them get back into work as soon as possible," CEO of the National Employment Services Association\*, Sally Sinclair said today.

Prior to today's announcement, retrenched workers were only eligible for a minimum level of advice and support and there were significant waiting times to access the help they need. From April 1 this year, anyone retrenched after today will be able to immediately access intensive, personalised employment services, Ms Sinclair said.

"We are very pleased that the Government has agreed to allow retrenched workers to immediately access the wanted and tailored services provided by employment service providers, to help people to access the training, and other help they need to get back into work as soon as possible," Sally said.

"Recently retrenched people, particularly during difficult economic times, need immediate access to professional assistance to work out what is the best approach to getting back into work, and what if any, additional training or other issues need to be addressed so that they have the best possible shot at getting another job quickly," Sally said.

NESA members help people to secure and maintain work. They support people to become work ready by providing a broad range of employment related assistance, services and professional support to people who are looking for work.

Ms Sinclair said her members were also pleased that after strong representation from the industry, providers of employment services will now receive increased resources in recognition of the extra workload associated with supporting recently retrenched workers.

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***Media Inquiries: Veronica McGowan (03)96863500, Sally Sinclair, CEO of NESA is available for interview today.***

***Links: [www.nesa.com.au](http://www.nesa.com.au)***