Understanding the New Employment Services/Workforce Australia



## Dr Simone Casey

Senior Advisor Australian Council of Social Service

## Outline of presentation

- 1. Short history of employment services
- 2. What's changing
- 3. How to share your experiences with us



## What are employment services?

- Government funded services provided by a market of job service providers (for profit and not for profit) - (privatized in 1998)
- Intended to provide assistance to people receiving unemployment benefits that helps them get a job...and check they are meeting Mutual Obligation requirements...
- Split c.40/60 from administration fees and outcome fees to provide employment services







# Workforce Australia

## Workforce Australia

'a digital,
personal, and
effective
employment
services system
that:



assists employers to source skilled job seekers



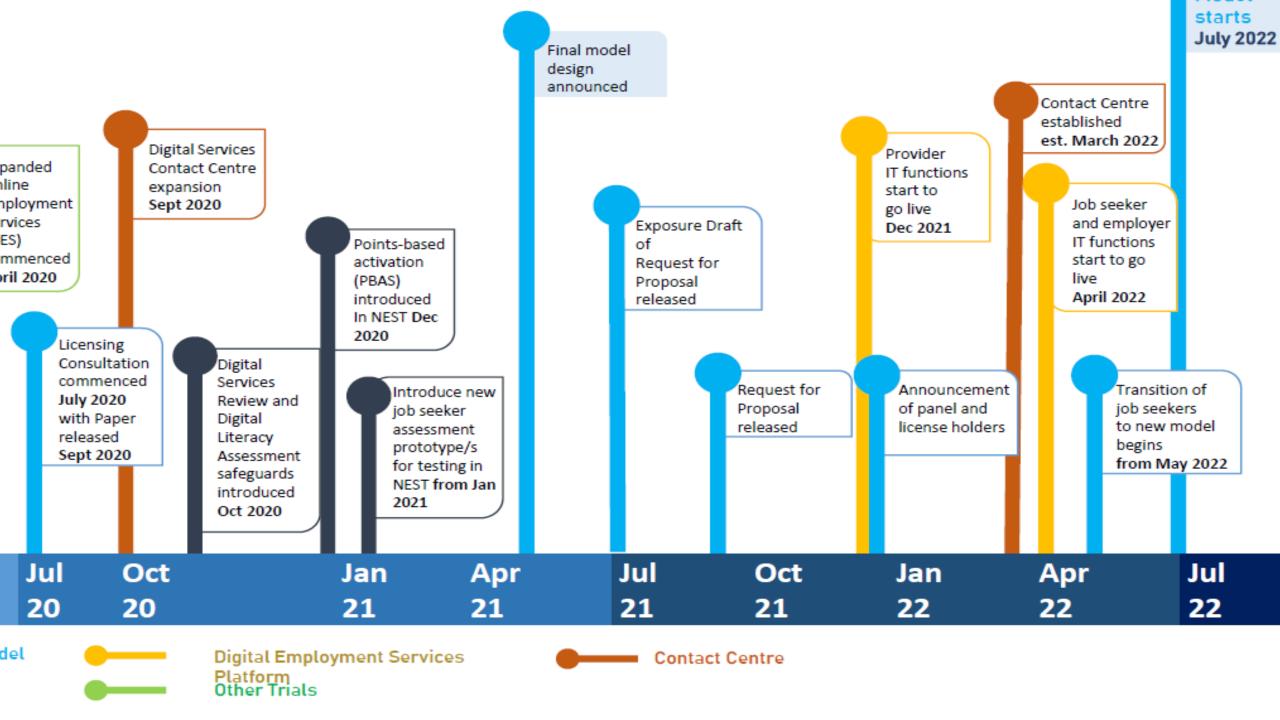
supports eligible job seekers to find a sustainable job



focuses high performing providers on supporting higher need job seekers



creates a more efficient and cost-effective model for government



### **Workforce Australia Online**

- Default service for 'job-ready' job seekers to self-manage
- Suite of supports
- Suite of safeguards
- Available to employers.

### **Workforce Australia providers**

- Intensive face-to-face servicing and individually tailored case management
- Flexible and innovative service delivery
- Strengthened Work for the Dole
- Work Trial opportunities
- Support through the Employment Fund

### **Specialist Workforce Australia Providers:**

- Offer personalised support to specific job seeker cohorts
- Available in identified locations

### What will happen-DESE advice

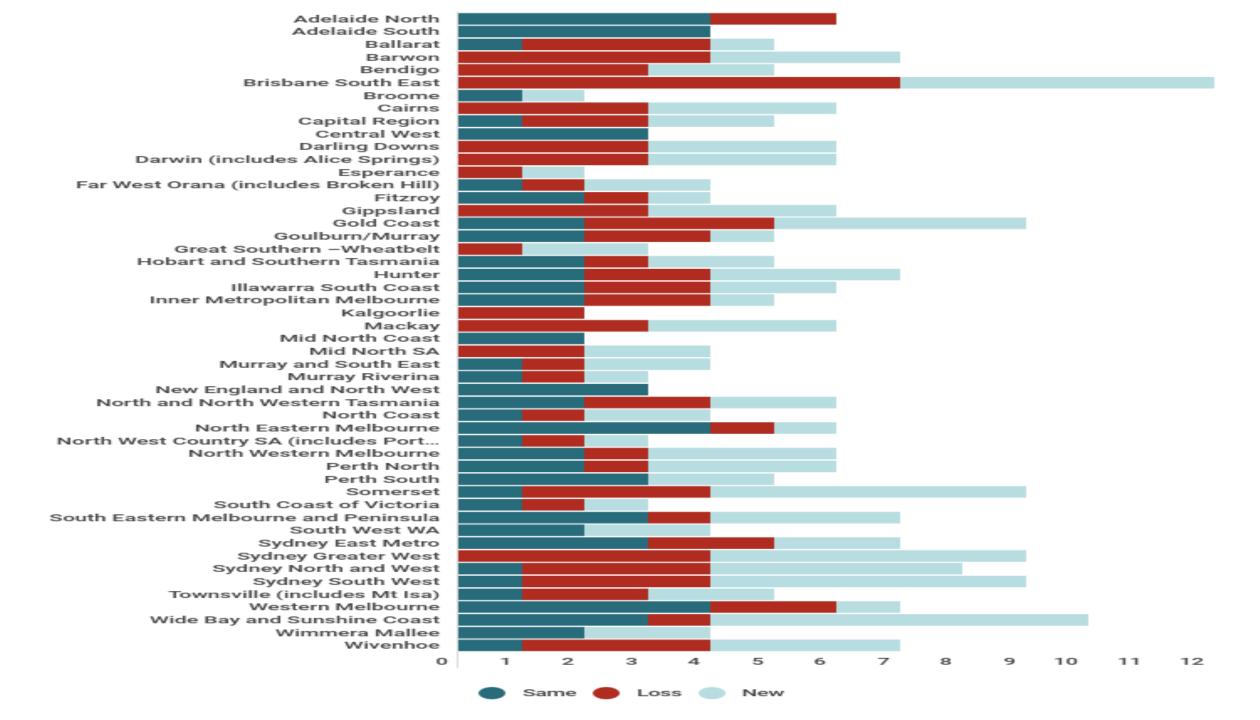
If you're participating in employment services, they will connect you with a Workforce Australia employment service that is starting from Monday 4 July 2022.

They'll assess your current needs and move you to either:

- •Workforce Australia Online to self-manage your job search and reporting requirements on the new digital platform, or
- •Workforce Australia provider services for more tailored support from a provider.

They'll contact you before Workforce Australia starts to tell you:

- •which service you'll move to from Monday 4 July 2022
- •who your provider will be if you're moving to Workforce Australia provider services
- •what you need to do to get ready for the new service.
- •LETTERS FROM LAST WEEK IN MAY IN INBOXES



## **New things**

- Points-based activation instead of job search targets
- Employability Skills training (EST)
- An activity (eg EST) for all participants including Digital after 4 months, and face-to-face after 6 months
- SMAR instead of AAR (2 month activity not 6 month)
- Revamped WFD
- National Work Experience Program (NWEP) expansion

## Points-based activation



### Setting and tailoring the points target

Once a job seeker has agreed to their job plan, they will need to meet a points target which will be tailored to the individual job seeker.

Maximum points target = 100 points

(inc. Job Search requirement) Labour market credit = 20 points

Points
Target
= 80 points

(inc. Job Search requirement) Personal circumstances credit = 20 points

Points
Target
= 80 points

(<u>no</u> Job Search requirement) Personal circumstances credit = 40 points

Points
Target
= 60 points

(inc. Job Search requirement) Labour market credit = 15 points

Personal circumstances credit = 30 points

Points
Target
= 55 points

(inc. Job Search requirement)

## **Meeting the points target – points values**

Tasks and activities	Points values
Completing a job application Creating/updating the career profile	5 points
Paid work Driver's licence hours Participant sourced voluntary work	5 points for 5 hours
Provider workshops Counselling Drug and alcohol rehabilitation Self help and support groups Non-vocational interventions Defence Force Reserves	10 points (with flexibility to adjust)
Work related licences and qualifications	15 or 20 points
Attending a job interview Starting a job Attending a job fair	20 points
PaTH Internships National Work Experience Program SelfEmployment Assistance Small Business training Launch into Work	25 points per week (Fully meets requirements over 4 week period)
Work for the Dole (WfD) Employability Skills Training (EST) Career Transition Assistance (CTA(P/T only) Observational work experience (WE) Provider sourced voluntary work (VW)	20 points per week (fu <b>ti</b> me 25hrs/wk) 15 points per week (ра <b>:tí</b> me 15hrs/wk)
Education and training Skills for Education and Employment Adult Migrant English Program	20 points per week (fu <b>ti</b> me) 15 points per week (ра <b>:ti</b> me)
Workforce Specialist Project Local Jobs Program	25 points per week (hig <b>i</b> ntensity level) 20 points per week (mediu <del>ri</del> mtensity level) 15 points per week (lo <b>u</b> ntensity level

- Providers can adjust the points values of <u>certain</u> tasks and activities based on job seeker circumstances
- ❖ Some tasks and activities may only be available to job seekers who self manage in Online Services or job seekers in Workforce Australia Services

## Variations in points targets

### Meeting the points target

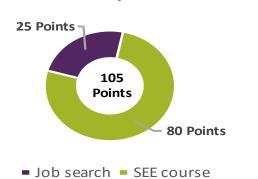
#### **Example 1**



Job Search

• 20 job searches. (one job search is worth five points).

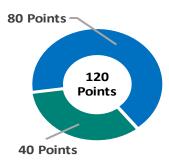
#### Example 2



Four-week fulltime in Skills for **Education** and Employment (SEE) course (20 points per week).

> 5 points banked towards next reporting period

#### Example 3



Paid work

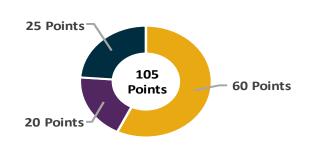
Education and training

20 points banked towards

- Full-time in Education and training (20 points per week).
- Paid work for 10 hours per week (5 points for 5 hours)
- No job search requirement as fully meeting through activities

next reporting period

#### Example 4



Job Search

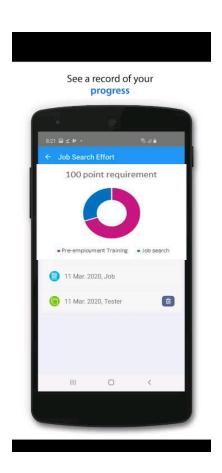
■ Job interview

CTA

- Four weeks in the Career Transition Assistance (CTA) program (15 points per week)
- One job interview (20 points)
- Five job searches (5 points each)

5 points banked towards next reporting period

## The dashboard and points-based activation





## Changes to activities

### jobactive

### **Annual Activity Requirement(AAR)**

- for six months

Work for the Dole was the default (different rules for different age groups)

#### **Workforce Australia**

# Six Monthly Activity requirement (SMAR) – for 2 months

- **EST** 4 months in online services (mandatory)
- **EST** 6 months in Workforce Australia and then other activities
- Work for the Dole after 15 months for digital
- Work for the Dole for the Six monthly activity

## Range of activities in Workforce Australia

#### Other activities include:

- Work for the Dole (revamped)
- National Work Experience Programme (NWEP) (revamped)
- Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP)
- Career Transition Assistance (CTA)
- Defence Force Reserves
- Exploring Being My Own Boss Workshops
- Launch into Work
- Local Jobs Program

- New Business Assistance with NEIS (New Enterprise Incentive Scheme)
- Non-Government Programs
- Non-vocational programs & services
- Paid work
- PaTH Business Placement Partnership
- PaTH Employability Skills Training
- PaTH Internships
- Skills for Education and Employment (SEE)
- Training and Study (including courses available through JobTrainer)
- Voluntary Work
- Work Experience (Other)

## Resources

Introduction to the Points Based Activation System for Workforce Australia webinar

https://www.dese.gov.au/workforce-australia/resources/introduction-points-based-activation-system-workforce-australia

Workforce Australia briefing

https://www.acoss.org.au/workforce-australia-provider-snapshot/

Mutual obligations in Workforce Australia briefing

https://www.acoss.org.au/mutual-obligations-and-the-new-employment-services-model/

PBAS in Workforce Australia briefing

https://www.acoss.org.au/points-based-activation-in-workforce-australia-faq/

'How to' pages on job search

https://jobsearch.gov.au/how-to-guide

Transition to Workforce Australia - information

https://jobsearch.gov.au/transition-to-workforce-australia

## Mental health and crisis support

**Lifeline** – 24/7 crisis support by phone (13 11 14). It also provides support by SMS message and online chat <a href="https://www.lifeline.org.au">www.lifeline.org.au</a>

**Kids Helpline** - free (even from a mobile), confidential 24/7 online and phone counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25 on 1800 55 1800 kidshelpline.com.au

Coronavirus Mental Wellbeing Support Service – trained counsellors available 24/7 on 1800 512 348. Support also available by web chat and through online forums <a href="mailto:coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au">coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au</a>

**Ask Izzy** – information on services, including housing, food, health, counselling, domestic violence and legal services, in your area <a href="mailto:askizzy.org.au">askizzy.org.au</a>



