



**Australian Government**



# Eligible School Leavers

# Eligible School Leavers

## *Eligible School Leaver (ESL) Policy in DES – Overview*

- Provides streamlined access to DES
- Job seekers can directly register with a DES provider
- Job seekers are not required to undertake an ESAt or JCA
- Eligibility is determined by the provider
- At present, ESLs attract the highest level of funding in DES (Funding Level 2). However, from 1 July 2018, funding levels for ESLs will be determined by the Department's IT Systems using the 2018 Funding Level Tool. ESLs will continue to have an 8 hour benchmark
- Can only access a single period of assistance as an ESL while still at school

# Eligible School Leavers

## *Pathways*

Two pathways to enter DES under ESL eligibility arrangements:

- ESL - Full-time Student
- ESL - Transition to Work

# Eligible School Leavers

## Full Time Students

### *ESL - Full Time Students*

- Early access to Disability Employment Services (DES) for students with significant disability, in their final year of school, to help them transition from school to post-school open employment.
- Full-time secondary students should not be accessing DES for the sole purpose of getting an after school job.
- DES providers work in partnership with the school to develop the skills to obtain and retain post-school employment and access to on-going support if required.

# Eligible School Leavers

## Full Time Students

### *Full-time students with 'significant disability'*

- Students with significant continuing support needs and significant barriers to employment
- Require a great deal of time and effort on the provider's part to prepare and ready the job seeker for open employment
- May require ongoing support in employment.

# Eligible School Leavers

## Full Time Students

*Students must be in their final year of school to be eligible for ESL*

Student must be:

- In year 12, or
- If not in their final year of school, their parent/guardian and the school have agreed for the student to leave school before meeting the minimum school leaving age.

Full-time secondary school students are eligible to Directly Register with a DES provider and are permitted to Commence in DES from 1 December of year 11 if they intend to undertake year 12 the following year.

# Eligible School Leavers

## Full Time Students

### *Special arrangements for students choosing to undertake Australian School-Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (ASBATs)*

- ASBATs are generally undertaken as part of the students curriculum.
- Students do not need to be in their final year of school
- Students must be undertaking an ASBAT that has been modified (modified curriculum or delivery) to accommodate the student's disability or attract Disabled Australian Apprentice Wage Support (DAAWS).

# Eligible School Leavers

## Full Time Students

### *Documentary Evidence*

DES providers must obtain Documentary Evidence to support the student's eligibility as an ESL.

- Evidence of the student's full-time school status and that they are currently in their final year of school
- Evidence that there is significant disability:
  - the student attracts additional funding due to their disability; or
  - Is in a disability special school; or
  - Is in a disability special class in a mainstream school; or
  - Is receiving Disability Support Pension (DSP)
- Documented opinion that the student can work a minimum of eight hours per week
- Details of the Apprenticeship (if relevant), including lodgement details



# Eligible School Leavers Transition to Work Pathway

- Provides streamlined access for young people with disability who are transitioning to open employment, where the young person is in their final six months of an approved state/territory transition to work program or receiving NDIS SLES supports.
- This recognises that transition to work program/SLES participants have significant disability and are likely to also benefit from a continuum of complementary services provided by DES ESL, to support their transition to post-school employment.

# Eligible School Leavers Transition to Work Pathway

## *When can approved state/territory government transition to work program or SLES Participants register with a DES Provider*

The timeframes for when approved state/territory government transition to work program or SLES Participants can transition to DES:

- within 20 business days of having exited an approved transition to work program or SLES; or
- participate concurrently in both DES and an approved transition to work program or SLES if the job seeker is in the final months of participation in the approved transition to work program or SLES.



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# School Leaver Trial

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## *School Leaver Trial Policy in DES – Overview*

- The DES School Leaver Trial is a trial to evaluate the efficacy of expanding eligibility for DES to students with disability who are in their final year of school but who are not currently eligible for DES
- The study attached to the Trial will determine if extending DES support to this group increases the number of students with disability successfully transitioning from school to work, without any adverse affects, including on their educational attainment.
- The School Leaver Trial will not impact on current ESL arrangements