



Australian Government

# Remote Australia Employment Service

**The Remote Australia Employment Service (RAES – pronounced RAYS) replaces the Community Development Program (CDP) and will begin in remote communities on 1 November 2025.**

This service will provide job seekers in remote communities with a flexible employment service that supports them to upskill, find pathways to work and contribute to their community.

It supports providers to work collaboratively with communities on projects and with job seekers to understand their needs.

CDP services will continue to support remote job seekers until 31 October 2025 to ensure a smooth transition before RAES starts.

## How will the new remote employment service work?

RAES will support job seekers in remote Australia to build their skills and address any barriers to getting a job.

It will support around 40,000 job seekers across 2,600 communities in RAES regions (currently known as CDP regions).

The service will:

- ✔ Help job seekers prepare for work, move into a job when available and stay employed with greater access to mentoring and tailored support.
- ✔ Support job seekers through community projects that build their skills and help them become job ready. These projects give communities more flexibility to design solutions locally, tailored for individual needs.
- ✔ Change the way providers are funded, supporting improved service delivery in critical areas, such as employment placement support (currently known as post placement support).

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- ✓ In a small number of regions, trial local approaches to build language, literacy and numeracy as these are foundational skills for getting a job.
  - ✓ In a small number of regions trial how existing job seeker assessment processes could be improved so that job seekers feel supported and comfortable, with providers identifying barriers as well as strengths and skills.
  - ✓ Provide an increased investment in training and resources to deliver higher quality, culturally safe services tailored to remote job seekers.

Job seekers will still be required to agree to a job plan, attend regular appointments, and accept suitable paid work and not leave suitable paid work.

There will be opportunities for improvement throughout implementation of the service to reflect further community and stakeholder feedback.

## How will the new service be different to CDP and CDEP?

What we know is that the current CDP is not working for everyone. The RAES will:

- ✓ Be more flexible.
- ✓ Enhance provider engagement with community to ensure community projects are co-designed and align with local priorities and aspirations.
- ✓ Link participants with suitable employment opportunities, including those created through the Remote Jobs and Economic Development (RJED) program.

Participation in activities to meet mutual obligation requirements will remain voluntary.

The new service will abide by new workplace rules and laws that have come into place since CDEP including:

- Requirements for Working with Vulnerable People or Working with Children checks to protect vulnerable people and children from harm.
- New Work Health and Safety laws have also been introduced to manage risks to the health and safety of everyone in a job.

It's important to the Government that the service works for job seekers in remote communities and complements existing policies led by other Government departments, while also aligning with broader employment policy reforms.

## For more information

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