



Free, accurate, independent disability information

WHAT NEXT? - Post School Options for Young People with Disability

You, (or the young adult you are caring for), are quickly reaching the end of your time at school and the next stage can be daunting: “what am I going to do when I leave school?”

The range of possibilities can be confusing with the disability employment landscape seemingly always changing. The following is a range of options that will assist you in your search. For more detailed information, please call IDEAS or visit the advised website.

Post School Education

There are a number of post school education options including:

- University
- TAFE – Technical and Further Education
- VET – Vocational Education and Training
 - ✓ VET skills and training are directly related to a particular type of work and/or industry with some courses being designed for people with disability. However, the course that you choose should be one that you are interested in, matches your abilities and one that you have a decision in completing, not just enrolling because you have a disability.
 - ✓ For a full directory of Australia’s training courses & organisations, visit the MySkills website to check out the options in your area.

Contact: [My Skills](#)

- Registered Training Organisations
 - ✓ RTO’s are training organisations that are registered with the Australian Skills Quality Authority to deliver VET programs
- Apprenticeships/Traineeships
 - ✓ Qualifications are acquired through on-the-job training with an employer and also TAFE classroom-based learning

Open Employment

This is when you are employed in the open labour market. You can be employed through a number of channels including:

- When you carry out your own job searches and apply directly to employers
- You use the services of a recruitment agency to help you to find a job
- You use your own networks like friends and family to assist you to get a job

Job Access

JobAccess is the national hub for workplace and employment information for people with disability, employers and service providers. It was created by the Australian Government and helps people with disability to find and keep jobs, get promoted to better jobs, get financial and other support and expand their workplace skills.

Contact: [Job Access](#) or call 1800 464 800

Non NDIS Participants

For those students who are interested in employment who are not NDIS participants or do not have or require SLES funding there are a number of services available to assist students to find work, transition to work and with support at work.

These services may include:

- Centrelink
 - ✓ **Services Australia**
- JobAccess
 - ✓ **Job Access**
- Jobactive
 - ✓ **Job Search**
- Disability Employment Services (DES)
 - ✓ **Disability Employment Services**

Transition to Work Program

If you are unsure what you would like to do when you leave school, you may wish to look at a transitioning program. The aim of the Transition to Work Program is to develop an individual's skills and/or qualifications to successfully secure and sustain employment. Visit the following websites for more information.

Contact: **Transition to Work**

Transition to Work Fact Sheet

Disability Employment Services (DES)

- Helps people with disability to find work and keep a job
- They are paid by the government to provide employment support and services
- It works by connecting people with disability to prospective employers
- They get to know the skills, qualifications, prior work experience and goals of people with disability to help them to find a suitable job

Contact: **Job Search**

School Leaver Employment Support (SLES)

The School Leaver Employment Support is a new NDIS funded employment support for Year 12 students to enable young people with disability to become economically independent.

Individualised support is offered for up to two years after finishing Year 12 to help you develop skills and confidence to find and keep a job. This support is only relevant if you are registered with the NDIS. SLES is tailored to the employment goals outlined in your NDIS plan. These may include work experience, job skills training and specific travel training such as commuting to and from work experience.

SLES is supplied through a service provider (the same scenario for other aspects of your NDIS plan). Once the SLES has concluded, it is then up to Disability Employment Services to continue to support you with your employment goals. For more information on SLES, visit their website

Contact: **School Leavers Employment Supports**

Vocational, Training and Employment Centres (VTECs)

Vocational, Training and Employment Centres (VTECs) connect Indigenous job seekers with guaranteed jobs and bring together the support services necessary to prepare job seekers for long-term employment. VTECs are open to Indigenous job seekers and school leavers and will prioritise highly disadvantaged Indigenous job seekers. For more information visit:

Contact: [Vocational Training and Employment Centres](#)

[Vocational Training and Employment Centres Fact Sheet](#)

Australian Disability Enterprises (ADE)

An ADE supports people with disability to engage in a wide variety of work tasks such as packaging, assembly, production, recycling, screen printing, plant nursery, garden maintenance, landscaping, cleaning services, laundry services and food services. ADEs also offer similar working conditions as other employers and an opportunity for people with a disability to contribute and connect to their local community.

Contact: [Australian Disability Enterprises](#)

Alternative Activities to Employment

There are various alternatives available, here are a few:

• Day Programs

Day programs run by disability service providers or community organisations are largely programs with a recreational focus intended to help people with disability participate in the community, or with a focus on independent life skills such as cooking or using public transport. These can be based in a centre or enable people to access the broader community individually or in groups.

• Community Day Centres

Centres are run by community organisations and disability service providers for people with disability to participate in group activities such as music, cooking or crafts. Activities are often based solely at the centre.

• Volunteering

Unpaid work for a non-profit or community organisation for a person to pursue an interest and connect with the local community, or with businesses to gain work experience.

• Community Participation

The Community Participation program helps young people with disability to develop the skills they need to work towards their goals, increase their independence and participate in their community. These young people with disability will have moderate to very high support needs who need an alternative to paid employment or further education in the medium or longer term.

Funds and Supports

There are certain funds, supports and allowances that you may be eligible for, depending on your individual circumstances. Here are just a couple.

• Mobility Allowance (MOB)

MOB is a social security payment paid to people with a disability, aged 16 or over, who cannot use public transport without substantial assistance and are required to travel to and from their home in order to undertake approved activities.

This may include work, study, training or job search. MOB is paid directly to recipients through Services Australia.

Please refer to the website for current information on the Mobility Allowance.

Contact: **Mobility Allowance**

Services Australia - Mobility Allowance

• **Employment Assistance Fund (EAF)**

There are funds available if you need workplace modifications and equipment to help you to do your job. The Employment Assistance Fund can be used for the following:

- ✓ Workplace modifications and equipment, such as assistive technology, electronic and communication equipment
- ✓ Communications technology devices
- ✓ Auslan (Australian Sign Language) interpreting
- ✓ Computer software and software upgrades
- ✓ Specialised support and training packages
- ✓ Modifications to work motor vehicles; and
- ✓ Specialist support for people with mental health conditions or learning disorders

Contact: **Employment Assistance Fund**

**If you have difficulty understanding any of the information
call IDEAS on 1800 029 904
and talk directly with our Information Officers**

