

DEEWR Progress Update March 2010

Since the release of the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) *National Action Plan on Mental Health*, the following measures have been implemented by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations:

- 2500 additional Personal Support Programme places were released by March 2007.
- Additional post placement support through the Disability Employment Network and Vocational Rehabilitation Services programs was fully implemented by 1 July 2007.
- Research and evaluation projects will be completed progressively by June 2011. Work commenced on these projects in June 2007 and nine projects have been completed. Two further projects will be completed by December 2010.
- Five COAG research reports were published in December 2009 and are available at:
<http://www.workplace.gov.au/workplace/Publications/ResearchStats/EmploymentAssistance/Researchintomentalhealthandemployment.htm>
- The National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy was released in September 2009. The report is at:
<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/Pages/NMHDES.aspx>
- New Disability Employment Services began on 1 March 2010. The new Disability Employment Services are uncapped, ensuring all eligible job seekers can access employment services to assist them to find and maintain employment. More information on Disability Employment Services is at:
<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/Programs/DES/Pages/default.aspx>
- The Disability Support Pension Pilot Project gives DSP recipients the opportunity to demonstrate their skills and willingness to work and raise awareness of the support available to employers to encourage them to provide sustainable job opportunities to people with disability. The Pilot Project began on 1 March 2010. More information about the Pilot may be found at:
http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/Programs/DES/Employer_Support/Pages/DSPEmpPilot.aspx
- Significant progress has been made on the three year 'Evaluation of Best Practice Employment Assistance to People with Mental Illness' (EBP) project. The final report for this project is due in May 2010.
- Additional information on mental health and employment assistance for employers, job seekers and employees, their co-workers and employment service providers is provided through the JobAccess website
www.jobaccess.gov.au