

School Leaver Employment Supports (SLES)

General overview

Background – The importance of employment

For people with disability, employment is not just about jobs. It's about being valued, useful and included. 'Increased access to employment opportunities is a key to improving economic security and personal wellbeing for people with disability, their families and carers'. (Recognising Ability: Business and the Employment of People with Disability).

NDIS and other service systems

Employment services and programs, including both disability-targeted and open employment services, will continue to be responsible for providing advice and support to:

- people with disability to prepare for, find and maintain jobs; and
- employers to encourage and assist them hire and be inclusive of people with disability in the workplace (e.g. support, training and resources, funding assistance to help employers make reasonable adjustments, and incentives for hiring people with disability, such as wage subsidies).

The NDIS will be responsible for funding supports that assist people with disability to prepare for, and take part in work where the person has work capacity but needs some more support before receiving ongoing employment support through existing systems.

School Leaver Employment Supports (SLES)

The NDIS funds reasonable and necessary supports that help a participant to reach their goals, objectives and aspirations. SLES is a new reasonable and necessary support for Year 12 school leavers, to assist them transition from school and into employment. Supports may include work experience generally in open employment, job site training, travel training and activities that contribute to achieving an employment outcome and linkages to ongoing employment support.

Participants can have SLES and other reasonable and necessary funded supports in their NDIS plan. They also have choice and the control over how they use funded supports in their NDIS plan. This includes choice of how the supports are given and which service providers they use.

Where are we now?

For Year 12 school leavers phasing into the NDIS in 2017, SLES will be offered to them as a reasonable and necessary support as part of their NDIS plan. SLES will be rolled out in the following States / Territories in 2017.

- ACT (territory wide)
- Tasmania (state-wide)
- NSW (as per Local Government Area in the phasing schedule)
- Victoria (as per Local Government Area in the phasing schedule)
- South Australia (state wide)

NDIA working in partnership with Education

The NDIA is working in partnership with Education in supporting students with disability to make a smooth transition into SLES or other employment supports. Teachers and local schools are key partners in this approach. Students who may benefit from SLES will also need to meet the [NDIS access criteria](#) if they are not already in the Scheme.

More information

More information will be available soon on the NDIS website.

