



Kelvin Thomson MP

Federal Labor Member for Wills

## **Wills to benefit from more flexible and better targeted employment services**

Job seekers in Wills, will receive improved employment services under a new simpler, more effective and modern Employment Services system announced by the Federal Government.

The Member for Wills said under the new system announced in the Federal Government's Budget, every job seeker will be provided with their own Employment Pathway Plan which will include training and work experience to help them find a job.

"The current Job Network system was designed a decade ago when unemployment was 7.7%", Mr Thomson said.

"Today the economic conditions have significantly changed with a chronic shortage of skilled labour.

"The Government's new employment services system strongly emphasises 'work readiness', providing greater skills development, training, work experience and tailored case management for job seekers.

"It will also promote stronger ties with employers which will ensure job seekers develop the skills in greatest demand".

Other significant reforms to employment services include:

- Job seekers to be streamed with additional assistance being provided to the most disadvantaged;
- Retention and boosting of Work for the Dole and Green Corps as part of work experience options for job seekers;
- \$41 million to develop innovative projects offering localised solutions in areas of high disadvantage;
- \$6 million for employment brokers to address labour shortages in regions and industry sectors;
- A more effective work like-compliance system based around a 'no show, no pay' rule with a job seeker's income support docked for every day they fail to attend a required activity without reasonable excuse; and
- Retention of eight-week non payment penalties for job seekers who wilfully and persistently refuse to look for employment

“While Work for the Dole is well recognised in the community it was one of the worst performing programs with two thirds of participants still unemployed three months after finishing.

“Under the new model the Government has improved Work for the Dole with more opportunities to combine training and work experience and funded around 150,000 additional work experience places, including Work for the Dole, over the next three years”.

Mr Thomson said the new employment services system is the result of extensive consultations with employment service providers, welfare organisations, employer groups and job seekers themselves.

“The new model is part of the Federal Government’s plan to boost employment participation including the roll out of up to 238,000 training places for job seekers, at a cost of \$880 million”, Mr Thomson concluded.

The Government will release a discussion paper on the implementation of the new model with submissions sought until 12<sup>th</sup> June. Copies of the discussion paper can be found at <http://www.workplace.gov.au>

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