

## Communiqué for the Employment Services Advisory Group

31 March 2021

The third meeting of the Employment Services Advisory Group was held on Wednesday 31 March 2021, chaired by the Department of Education, Skills and Employment (the Department).

Members were provided an overview of the design and implementation of the **'Online Pathways to Employment Month'** held throughout February 2021, for job seekers and employers in the two New Employment Services Trial (NEST) regions. The month focussed on providing information on non-vocational and vocational support available to job seekers and sharing information with employers on incentives and support available to them when engaging a job seeker.

MatchWorks, an employment service provider participating in the NEST, spoke to members about their **experience with the trial** noting that the emphasis in the trial has been on focussing their services on job seekers requiring greater levels of support to find employment.

An update was provided on the **NEST evaluation** findings to date and the planned future research and reporting to be undertaken by the department. Members were also advised of the findings from the:

- Online Employment Services Trial (OEST) Evaluation (link: [Online Employment Services Trial Evaluation - Department of Education, Skills and Employment, Australian Government \(dese.gov.au\)](#)), and
- Online Job Seeker Classification Instrument (JSCI) Trial Evaluation (link: [Online Job Seeker Classification Instrument Trial Evaluation Report - Department of Education, Skills and Employment, Australian Government \(dese.gov.au\)](#))

Information was provided to members on the **changes to mutual obligation requirements** announced by the Government on 23 February 2021. Members noted that jobs seekers will be required to search for a minimum of 15 jobs a month from early April 2021 increasing to 20 jobs per month from 1 July 2021. Members were advised that an Employer Reporting Line was being established to allow employers to provide information about job seekers who are not genuine about their job search or decline the offer of a job and was expected to commence in early April 2021.

The next meeting of the Advisory Group will be held in **May 2021**.