

The Department of Education, Skills and Employment

Exposure Draft for the New Employment Services Model 2022
Purchasing Arrangements

Response submitted by:

National Australian Apprenticeship Association

02.07.21

New Employment Services Model
Employment service procurement
DESE
Canberra

Via email

Re NESM Exposure Draft feedback

Dear Colleagues,

We write to provide feedback on the Exposure Draft for the New Employment Services Model (NESM).

The National Australian Apprenticeship Association (NAAA) is the peak agency for the Australian Apprenticeships Support Network that organise and support all apprentices, trainees, and their employers in Australia. The seven Apprenticeship Network Providers (ANPs) have successfully implemented the Supporting Apprentices and Trainees (SAT) and Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements (BAC) Commonwealth stimulus measures.

BAC has been an outstanding success placing around 150,000 apprentices and trainees in 9 months. As a result, there is a national shortage of candidates ready to take up apprenticeships and traineeships, whilst employer demand remains extremely strong.

Our key observation on the NESM Exposure Draft is that despite being part of the same federal department the linkages between the Apprenticeship and Employment Services systems are minimal. This is perpetuated in the Exposure Draft of the new model where there are only three mentions of apprenticeships - all in the glossary of terms.

Yet there has never been a better time to improve the systemic linkages between the two programs to improve outcomes for individuals, employers, and Australia as a whole. Particularly for Stream A and B jobseekers ready to undertake a Traineeship. At a minimum the Department should consider:

- Providing a weighting for Australian Apprenticeship outcomes in the performance framework used for the Annual Licence Review (section 2.2.13)
- Requiring NESM applicants to say how they will tailor their services to facilitate apprenticeship placements (section 5.5.1.2)
- Require NESM applicants to demonstrate their connections with ANPs (section 5.5.1.3)
- Track referrals and outcomes between the NESM and AASN providers by creating Application Program Interfaces (APIs) between the new employment services platform and the Apprenticeship Data Management System.

In addition, consideration should be given to new linkages that improve the referral flow of Stream A Jobseekers from the Digital Services to ANPs Gateway services. This could



**National Australian
Apprenticeship Association**

include the predictive analytics assessments currently used by ANPs becoming part of the suite of tools available to jobseekers in the Digital Services.

The Association would like to offer to convene a working group of ANP experts and Employment Service providers to liaise with Departmental Officials to examine the potential for greater integration of the services.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]