

Vocational Rehabilitation for People with Disability in Australia : a short history

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Post WW11 Origins

State Response: Commonwealth Rehabilitation
& Employment Services

Community Response: Sheltered Workshops &
Activity Therapy Centres

Rehab. service delivery developments in the 1980s & 1990s

- Public sector decentralisation & specialisation
- Rise of private rehabilitation industry in response to no-fault Workers & Traffic Accident Compensation legislation
- Development of community-based supported employment service system
- Total privatisation of mainstream government employment assistance

The latest changes-the 21st century

- Labour Government's Social Inclusion Agenda- universal disability employment service entitlement & consideration of a national disability insurance scheme
- Growing overlap in rehabilitation & supported employment service provision
- Increased private/community sector outsourcing (labour market programs)
- Proliferation of disability assessment services

Current Statistics – Australian Disability Employment Services

- Total DES providers: 224 across 1999 sites
- Disability Management Services: 66 agencies (1105 outlets) –incl. 65% CRS Australia market share- with 53,800 clients
- Employment Support Services: 210 agencies (1136 outlets) with 69,800 clients

Current Disability Employment Support Programs

- Job Access (www.jobaccess.gov.au)
- Employment Assistance Fund –Workplace Modifications & Auslan for Work
- Supported Wages System
- National Disability Recruitment Co-ordinator
- Work Experience or Work Training
- Wage Subsidy Scheme
- Disability Apprenticeship Wage Subsidy & Support (tutorial assistance, mentors, interpreters)