

DEWR Progress Update

The Australian Government's \$1.9 billion contribution to the Council of Australian Governments' National Action Plan on Mental Health includes \$40 million over five years administered by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations to help people with mental illness find and retain employment. The funding provides 2,500 additional places in Personal Support Programme and more post placement support for people with mental illness through Disability Employment Network and Vocational Rehabilitation Services. In addition, the measure funds projects to evaluate the most effective ways of providing employment assistance for people with mental illness, and provides information on effective employment assistance to employers, service providers and jobseekers.

Progress for the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations' measure, Helping People with Mental Illness to Enter and Remain in Employment:

- the 2,500 additional Personal Support Programme places were released by March 2007;
- the additional post placement support through Disability Employment Network and Vocational Rehabilitation Services was fully implemented by 1 July 2007;
- the research and evaluation projects will be completed progressively over the next three years. Work commenced on these projects in June 2007; and
- additional information on mental health and employment assistance for employers, job seekers and employees, their co-workers and Providers of Australian Government Employment Services was provided by June 2007 through the JobAccess web site.