

# Expanding the Employment Service for Disabled People

As part of a COVID-19 Budget package the Government recognises the need to strengthen employment services to improve inclusive employment opportunities.

## COVID-19 Budget Package 2020

### Assisting an additional 941 disabled New Zealanders into employment to support an inclusive economic recovery

Increases in employment and financial services and MSD’s employment offering is critical to supporting people quickly into employment opportunities to reduce reliance on Government financial support.

- **Government is investing \$12.5 million additional funding over two years for the MSD-funded Employment Service, an Employment Support Service for disabled people.**
- Disabled people are likely to be disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, widening the employment gap between disabled and non-disabled New Zealanders as a result.
- There is a risk of further disadvantaging disabled people, both economically and socially, if they are not specifically included in the COVID-19 response and recovery.
- Currently the Employment Service only reaches a small proportion of disabled people who want to work. The funding will assist an additional 941 disabled people a year to get into work and stay employed longer.
- In total, this funding will assist 1,941 disabled people to attain and retain sustainable employment.
- The additional funding will be used to expand employment services by:
  - increasing the capacity of the service so more people can access it
  - making the service available to young people in their final two years of school.

**Costs \$m**

2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL
6.25	6.25	-	-	12.5