

Employment and Work Readiness Assistance (Incentive Payments) Amendment 2025

This instrument is made under section 101(1) of the Social Security Act 2018 by the Minister for Social Development and Employment.

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Instrument

1 Title

This instrument is the Employment and Work Readiness Assistance (Incentive Payments) Amendment 2025.

2 Commencement

This instrument comes into force on 31 March 2025.

3 Programme amended

This instrument amends the Employment and Work Readiness Assistance Programme established and approved on 6 March 2014 (the **principal programme**).

4 Clause 13 amended (Savings and transitional provisions)

Replace clause 13 with:

- (1) Subclause (2) applies to applicants who have been granted Flexible Childcare Assistance under clause 9(1) of the Schedule before 1 April 2024 (an **eligible Flexible Childcare Assistance applicant**).
- (2) An eligible Flexible Childcare Assistance applicant—
 - (a) for whom Flexible Childcare Assistance was granted prior to 1 April 2024 but is not receiving it on 1 April 2024 may be granted an additional grant, however MSD must reduce the applicant's 52-week maximum entitlement by the number of weeks they have previously received Flexible Childcare Assistance in respect of; or
 - (b) who is receiving Flexible Childcare Assistance on 1 April 2024, will continue to receive the assistance

and their total entitlement increases to 52 weeks, however MSD must reduce the applicant's 52-week maximum entitlement by the number of weeks they have already received Flexible Childcare Assistance in respect of.

- (3) For the avoidance of doubt, MSD must assess any applications for Flexible Childcare Assistance under clause 9(1) of the Schedule of this programme which were received but had not yet been granted before 1 April 2024 in accordance with the terms under clause 9A of the Schedule.
- (4) MSD must assess any applications for an incentive payment under the now revoked clauses 6A(a)(iii) or (iv) of the Schedule of this programme which were received but not yet granted before 31 March 2025 in accordance with the terms under those clauses as they existed before 31 March 2025, however MSD may only grant assistance under those clauses until close of 30 April 2025.
- (5) Despite subclause (4), MSD may grant assistance after close of 30 April 2025, if the assistance would have been granted but for a delay caused by MSD.

5 Schedule amended

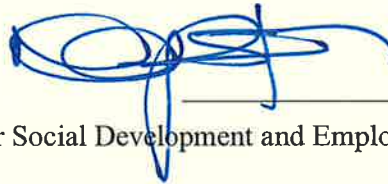
- (1) In clause 3(a) of the Schedule, replace "\$1,000.00" in the "Amount" column with "\$1,000".
- (2) In clause 3(b) of the Schedule, replace "\$5,000.00" in the "Amount" column with "\$5,000".
- (3) In clause 6(1) of the Schedule, replace "\$1,500.00" in the "Amount" column with "\$1,500".
- (4) In clause 6(1)(f) of the Schedule, replace "his or her" with "their".
- (5) In clause 6(2)(a) of the Schedule, replace "\$500.00" with "\$500".
- (6) Replace clause 6A(a) with:

(a) Incentive payments

A payment to an eligible person as an incentive for that person to do one or more of the following activities:

- (i) enter or retain employment:
- (ii) take up an offer of suitable employment:
- (iii) gain employment skills:
- (iv) enter into study or employment-related training

- (7) In clause 6A(a) of the Schedule, replace “\$5,000” in the “Amount” column with “\$3,000”.
- (8) In clause 8(a) of the Schedule, replace “preparatory to entering” with “for preparing to enter”.
- (9) In clause 8(b) of the Schedule, replace “\$10,000.00” in the “Amount” column with “\$10,000”.



Minister for Social Development and Employment

At Cambridge this 16th day of February 2025

Explanatory Note

This note is not part of the instrument but is intended to indicate its general effect.

This instrument, which comes into force on 31 March 2025, amends the Employment and Work Readiness Assistance Programme. The amendment—

- revokes the clauses in 6A(a) of the Schedule that relate to assisting applicants to relocate for employment; and
- reduces the amount available for incentive payments in a 52-week period in clause 6A(a) of the schedule from \$5,000 to \$3,000; and
- inserts transitional arrangements for applications made for incentive payment applications under clauses 6A(a)(iii) and 6A(a)(iv) of the Schedule before 31 March 2025; and
- makes minor and technical changes to the Schedule.