

## Sector watch update: October 2018

### **Job seekers' AOD rehabilitation activities**

The Director of Unemployment Payments—Work and Study Payments branch of the Department of Social Services has provided NADA with more information regarding the implementation of the 'substance misuse measures' announced in the 2017–18 Federal Budget. The information is focused on the measure which commenced on 1 January 2018 to allow job seekers to have AOD rehabilitation activities included in their Job Plan to either fully meet their Mutual Obligation Requirements or count towards their Annual Activity Requirement hours. The Department of Jobs and Small Business created the linked material (*below*) to educate their employment service providers on the measure.

NADA has been advised that there has been positive uptake of these new arrangements by Stream A and Stream B job seekers in 'jobactive' who previously did not have access to these kinds of interventions as an approved activity.

As members may also be aware, from 1 July 2018, job seekers experiencing substance use issues will need to remain engaged in appropriate activities, including treatment, rather than be exempt from their Mutual Obligation Requirements due to AOD use, or continuing to use this as a reasonable excuse for not meeting their requirements. Those whose substance use prevents them from looking for work will remain connected with their employment services provider and will undertake tailored activities as part of their job plan, which may include AOD treatment, rather than being exempt from all requirements. *If a job seeker is in residential rehabilitation, this will fully meet their Mutual Obligation Requirements.*

The [Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Advice](#) [PDF] provides detailed information regarding how employment services providers should create and approve Job Plans for job seekers undertaking AOD rehabilitation.

NADA would be happy to keep receiving any feedback from members who are experiencing any difficulties with these changed arrangements.

### **For more Information**

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