



# Timeline - Employment Services

Pre  
1980s

Segregated employment – Sheltered workshops (Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs) and Supported Employment Services

1980s

Disability Services Act

- Employment services fall into two main categories: open employment services and business services providing supported employment
- Introduction of open employment with mixed success

1990s-  
2000s

- Disability Employee Network Program (DEN) (under various names)
- Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS)

2010

- Disability Employment Services (DES) program introduced to increase the participation of people with a disability in the labour force. Also with mixed success

2012-  
2020

- 2012 -NDIS initial trials
- 2020 - NDIS fully rolled out across Australia

2023

Disability Royal Commission (DRC) releases final reports

- Customised Employment has gained increased recognition in Australia following the recommendations by the DRC
- DRC make recommendation for DSS to incorporate Customised Employment into new DES framework

2024

- Customised Employment gaining traction in Australia, however many are misinterpreting what it is; open to interpretation as not clearly defined through Legislation.
- Disability Services and Inclusion Act 2023 commenced in January 2024 and replaces the Disability Services Act 1986

2025

- Centre for Excellence to commence in March 2025
- New DES System in place from 1 July 2025