

The numbers for social enterprises stack up. Let's share these.



Background

To support the key messages we've shared with the WISE community recently, it's important to know where the numbers come from. This document provides you with the source data - so you can reference this in your own materials if needed.

Also included are some additional numbers from Working Future – The Australian Government's White Paper on Jobs and Opportunities (September 2023), along with the Workforce Australia Review (November). These may be helpful too.

We will continue to build on these over the coming months.

DEWR 24/25 Annual Report

Data point	Source	Page
<p>Workforce Australia Services: Only 11.7% of participants achieved a 26-week employment outcome, below the 15% target, due to skills mismatches and shifts in labour market demand.</p> <p>++ <i>Comparison can be made with the <u>PBO Trial data</u>, which shows that 82% of trial participants working in a social enterprise were still employed after 26 weeks. (noting trial participants have been unemployed for 9 of last 12 months and have a disability – so supported through DES not Workforce Australia).</i></p>	<u>DEWR 24/25 Annual Report</u>	36
<p>The federal government invests \$3.2B in employment and training programs each year.</p> <p>(This doesn't include employment programs through DSS – including Inclusive Employment Australia – formerly DES)</p> <p>++ Breakdown from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025: Total investment in DEWR programs - \$3.2B Investment in: Outcome 1: 'employment and workplace' programs: \$1.69B (Workforce Australia alone \$1.2B) Outcome 2: 'Skills and Training programs' = \$1.5B</p>	<u>DEWR 24/25 Annual Report</u>	188

<p>remote Australia, 85.5 per cent of First Nations people live in metropolitan and regional areas.</p>		
<p>DISABILITY: The employment rate for people with disability has been consistently lower than for those with no reported disability, and has shown no improvement over 20 years.</p> <p>The employment rate for people with disability between 1998 and 2018 is around 50 per cent.</p>	<p><u>Working Future</u></p>	<p>Executive Summary</p> <p>Page 23</p>
<p>YOUNG PEOPLE: Young people aged 15 to 24 years face an unemployment rate twice the unemployment rate for all Australians.</p>	<p><u>Working Future</u></p>	<p>Executive Summary</p>
<p>NEGATIVE RIPPLE EFFECT OF INCARCERATION:</p> <p>People who have been incarcerated are more likely to experience other concurrent barriers including homelessness and housing instability, lower education, and substance misuse, making it harder to find employment and overcome disadvantage.</p>	<p><u>Working Future</u></p>	<p>148</p>
<p>Workforce Australia Participants access an average of <u>30mins a fortnight</u> of direct support. This is not sufficient for people with complex barriers.</p> <p>From report: The level of direct support – averaging 30 minutes a fortnight – currently available in the system is not sufficient for the most disadvantaged job seekers with multiple barriers. Academic research suggests that while the system may work relatively well for an average job seeker, it has failed those who are most disadvantaged.</p>	<p><u>Working Future</u></p>	<p>153</p>
<p>REMOVING JUDGEMENT FROM RECRUITMENT:</p> <p>Women, people with disability, mature age people, youth, the long-term unemployed, First Nations people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are more likely to experience discrimination during the recruitment process, limiting their job opportunities.</p>	<p><u>Working Future</u></p>	<p>154</p>

Workforce Australia Review (Select Committee on Workforce Australia Employment Services) – November 2023.

Data point	Source	Page number
154,290 (24.7 per cent) had been in employment services for at least five years.	<u>Workforce Australia Review.</u>	Chapter one – online report
Over four years from 2022–23 to 2025–26, over \$7 billion is forecast to be spent on Workforce Australia, complementary programs, and other labour market programs. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$517 million for Workforce Australia Online;• \$4.3 billion for Workforce Australia Services;• \$1.3 billion for Transition to Work; and• \$996 million for Self-Employment Assistance (S-EA), Local Jobs Program, Harvest Trail Services, Launch into Work and a range of targeted bespoke programs.^[7]	<u>Workforce Australia Review.</u>	Chapter one – online report

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