



Information Sheet

What is IPS?

Individual Placement and Support model of supported employment was developed to assist people with severe and persistent mental health conditions to seek, gain and retain open, competitive employment.

This integrated model of intervention directly aligns with state and national policy and is a proven initiative to improve employment outcomes for consumers working with both Disability Employment Services and Mental Health Services.

The Core Practice Principles of IPS

1. Competitive employment
2. Integrated with mental health treatment
3. Zero Exclusion
4. Client Preferences
5. Benefits counselling
6. Rapid job search
7. Job development
8. Time unlimited support

The Employment Specialist

- Works with consumers and the mental health team to assist achieving employment goals;
- Facilitates work related appointments with Centrelink;
- Assists the person with job search;
- Provides assistance in preparing job applications and for job interviews;
- Manages issues arising from the job or employer; and
- Assists the individual in retaining their chosen job

The Mental Health Service

- Assists with the referral process by providing medical evidence and information relevant to the consumer's participation in the IPS employment program;
- Supports the Employment Specialist by either providing advice or arranging treatment to enable the consumer to manage their condition whilst employed;
- Provides induction and supervisory support to the Employment Specialist

Who is eligible?

Consumers who are:

- Receiving support from mental health services
- Motivated to work and willing to participate in the job searching process

The benefits:

Meaningful employment has been shown to improve self-esteem, increase personal empowerment and social inclusion.

Work offers a routine and can reduce clinical symptoms. It can provide:

- New meaning, control and purpose in life
- Increased independence, self-worth and confidence
- Increased work skills and career opportunities
- Increased connection to community