



# What is SLES under the NDIS?

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- SLES is an early intervention program funded by the NDIS for young people with disabilities who are in their **final year of school** or have **recently finished**.
- SLES can **begin in the last year** of schooling and is usually available for up to **2 years after leaving school**, most often for **Participants aged between 16 and 22**.
- It helps Participants develop the skills and confidence they need **transition from school to work**.
- While **SLES does not guarantee a job**, it helps participants pursue open employment and improve their long-term career opportunities.
- The nature and delivery of SLES supports depends on each **participant's needs and employment goals**.

## What other options

- Going straight to open employment through a DES service
- Going to supported employment through an Australian Disability Enterprise (ADE)
- Undertaking further education through a TAFE or university
- Volunteering

## How much does SLES cost?

- SLES is not price-controlled. It is funded through an annual payment, usually around **\$22,000 per year**, which allows for flexible and individualised support.
- Participants can spend their funding on **multiple SLES Providers** to meet their needs and goals.
- SLES does not guarantee a job, it helps Participants with the skills and confidence they need to pursue open employment and improve their long-term career opportunities



# Benefits of the SLES Program

**Creates independence:** Employment increases people's independence improves health and well-being as well as provides opportunities to develop new skills and have a connection to the community.

**Builds capacity:** capacity-building activities can include building job skills, and building confidence and independence.

**Provides individualised support:** each participant's SLES program is created around their needs and goals.

**Individualised one-on-one mentoring:** gives the young person the time to better understand themselves, work interests and the supports they need to give them the best opportunity to gain soft and hard work skills.

**Opportunities for work experience:** Access to real-life industry placements give participants the chance to experience working in many different businesses and industries in order to find the right job for them.


## Capacity-building activities that may be included in a SLES program and assist with goals can include:

- Money handling skills
- Time management skills
- Communication skills
- Discovery activities
- Work experience
- Learning how to take instruction at work
- Travel skills.

## Who can get SLES funding under the NDIS?

- You need to be on an NDIS plan with funding under the Finding and Keeping a Job category with line item 10\_021\_0102\_5\_3
- Participants are generally school leavers aged between 16 and 22, or students preparing to leave school, usually in Year 12 but sometimes from Year 10 depending on state regulations.
- SLES is designed for young people who require intensive support to move from school into employment and are not yet ready for immediate open employment through DES.
- Start talking to your Local Area Coordinator about adding the program to your NDIS Plan before you leave school. They may not suggest it automatically.

 1300 599 770

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# What is the difference between SLES and DES?

## School Leaver Employment Support (SLES)

SLES is an early intervention approach for school leavers with significant disability to support the transition from school to employment.

SLES supports are designed to build capacity to meet access criteria and transition into Disability employment Services (DES).

Young people in their last year of school who are work-ready for open employment may be able to go straight to the DES ESL [Eligible School Leaver] program.

SLES assists with work experience and overcoming barriers and building confidence and prepares the young person to engage with a DES provider, who will further their journey of employment.

## Disability Employment Services (DES)

DES solely supports a person with a Disability, Injury or Health Condition who is job ready, to find and keep a job and have a future work capacity of at least 8 hours per week. DES is for people who want to find a job in open employment. You don't need to have NDIS funding to receive DES support.

DES is about working with you at your pace to help you find the right job with the right employer. DES Employment Consultants (like atWork Australia) will support people from school leaving age right through to retirement

## How does SLES & DES work together?

At some point in the SLES program, you will have completed work experience and feeling confident enough will become job-ready to gain paid employment. This is where (DES) comes into play.

Your SLES Provider will assist you in finding a DES provider and then work with you and the chosen DES provider for the first 6 months that you are in the DES program.

## How to find a SLES Provider?

For information about finding SLES providers in your area:

 1300 599 770

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