



The Hon Kevin Andrews MP
Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service

Welfare to Work - Increasing participation of the mature age

What funding is the Government committing to the mature age initiative?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ The Government is spending \$6.9 million over four years to increase participation for mature age job seekers. Of this, \$6 million will be spent on increased employment assistance and \$0.9 million on increased education related assistance.
Who will benefit from the mature age initiative?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Mature age job seekers will benefit from reduced welfare dependency by focusing more on finding work.
What new requirements will mature age job seekers face?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Job seekers aged over 50 will have the same job search requirements as all other job seekers.▶ Job seekers aged 50-54 will no longer be able to fully satisfy the activity test by undertaking voluntary work or a combination of voluntary and part-time work.▶ Job seekers aged 55 and over, may satisfy the activity test by undertaking a minimum of 15 hours per week of voluntary work, part-time work or a combination of the two.▶ Job seekers between 40 and 49 will have Work for the Dole as their default Mutual Obligation activity.
What new services will mature age job seekers be able to access?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ A new employment service, Employment Preparation, will be introduced in Job Network from 1 July 2006.▶ Employment Preparation will equip job seekers with the skills to re-enter the workforce.▶ Employment Preparation will be available on a demand-driven basis for mature age job seekers on income support. In addition, up to 5 000 Employment Preparation places a year will be available for mature age job seekers not on income support.▶ Mature age people not on income support will be able to access the New Enterprise Incentive



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Scheme (NEIS), with 400 places available each year when fully implemented.
