

This module will help you understand job plans and your role as a provider in creating a job plan.

- Welcome
- Overview
- Creating a job plan
- Evaluating personal responsibility
- Entering and updating a job plan
- Summary

Lesson1of6

Welcome



This training will provide you with an overview of job plans, a participant's mutual obligation requirements, and your role as a provider in creating and updating a job plan. You will also learn how to assess a participant's capacity to self-report online.





Learning outcomes

On the completion of this module, you will be able to:

- describe the purpose of a job plan and your role and responsibilities in relation to job plans
- explain the mutual obligation requirements that are included in the job plan to a participant, including the participant's responsibilities
- create or update a job plan with a participant
- evaluate a participant's capacity to take personal responsibility for planning, managing and reporting their mutual obligation requirements.

This module doesn't show you how to use the department's IT system. There is separate IT training that helps you do that. You will be better prepared to do the IT training if you do this module first.

The module has been designed using research-based training methods. It presents you with new information, and supports you to practise using it. It gives you the opportunity to check your understanding and to apply your new knowledge.

Each lesson follows a similar format and includes:

- definitions
- · descriptions of your role and responsibilities
- process diagrams
- scenarios
- activities
- feedback
- quiz questions
- links to cheat sheets and other resources.

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The Module may contain videos representing working environments. These videos should be taken as illustrative only and may not necessarily represent what is a safe system of work as required by the Deed or by work health and safety laws in Australian jurisdictions in which Providers operate.

GET STARTED

Overview

In this lesson you will discover what a job plan is, a participant's mutual obligation requirements included in their job plan, your role and the steps involved in creating and updating a job plan.



What is a job plan?

A job plan is a participant's acknowledgment and commitment to meet their mutual obligation requirements by actively participating in employment services in return for their income support. A job plan is a requirement under Social Security law.

What are mutual obligation requirements?

A participant's mutual obligation requirements are outlined in their job plan and will include requirements such as accepting suitable work, attending interviews and provider appointments, as

well as meeting a points requirement through the Points Based Activation System (PBAS).

What is the provider's role?

As a provider, you have a significant role in ensuring that all participants with mutual obligation requirements:

- agree to a job plan
- understand the requirements in their job plan, including their points requirement
- understand the consequences of not agreeing to their job plan or failing to meet their requirements outlined in their job plan.

You also have a responsibility to update their job plan when their circumstances change.

Process for creating and updating a job plan

There are a number of steps that you will need to take to create and update a job plan. Click on the numbered points for more information about each step.





1. Create a job plan

You must create a job plan for each participant who has mutual obligation requirements. It involves several steps, including explaining mutual obligation requirements to the participant.



2. Evaluate capacity to self-report

You must decide if a participant is capable of meeting the personal responsibility requirement and if they are not, remove this requirement from their job plan.



3. Enter and update the job plan

You share the job plan with the participant for agreement and update the job plan when circumstances change, such as adding a Mandatory Activity Requirement or removing it when a participant completes the mandatory activity, or adding or removing the personal responsibility requirement.

The lessons that follow will help you understand and be able to carry out these steps.

CONTINUE

Lesson 3 of 6

Creating a job plan



When you have a participant referred to your organisation who has mutual obligation requirements, you must create a job plan with them at the initial interview.

This will include new referrals from Services Australia but also participants transferred from other Workforce Australia Employment Services Providers or from Workforce Australia Online.



Conduct the initial interview



You must explain the purpose of the job plan, the participant's mutual obligation requirements including the points requirement

Conduct the initial interview Conduct the initial interview Step 1 Explain the Job Plan Conduct the initial interview Step 1 Conduct the initial interview Step 2 Step 2 Step 2 Step 3 Step 3 Step 4 Agree to Job Plan Step 4 Agree to Job Plan

You must determine whether the participant can self-manage and record their participation online (PA03 – personal responsibility) and adjust the job plan if needed

Conduct the initial interview



Consider - personal circumstances and set the points target.

Advise - what the points target is.

Explain – how to meet the points target, including any minimum job search.

Reporting period – ends on the same day each month.

Conduct the initial interview



A participant has up to two days "think time" to agree to the Job Plan and must understand the consequences of not agreeing to the Job Plan.

At the initial interview, you must explain to the participant, and ensure they understand, what a job plan and its purpose is, and their mutual obligation requirements as outlined in their job plan. All participants with mutual obligation requirements must agree to, and comply with, the requirements in their job plan.

Meet Rose



Rose is sitting with you at her initial interview. Your responsibilities at this appointment include getting to know Rose, creating her job plan and commencing her in employment services. Do you know what to do? Let's find out.

You must explain each of the mutual obligation requirements to the participant and ensure that they understand what each one is, and what they need to do to meet that requirement.

The mutual obligation requirements are considered core requirements in return for income support. They are included in all job plans and **cannot** be removed. They include:

- Points requirement participant is required to meet the points target on their homepage including any minimum job search requirement. This requirement will be explained more in the Points Based Activation System (PBAS) module.
- Accept and retain suitable work participant is required to accept any offer of suitable work and must not voluntarily leave suitable paid work without a valid reason.
- Actioning job referrals and opportunities participant is required to follow up on job opportunities they are referred to by their provider.
- Job interviews participant is required to attend and act appropriately at any job interview they are referred to by their provider.
- Compulsory notified appointments participant is required to attend and act appropriately during compulsory appointments. This includes provider appointments and third-party appointments.

The job plan will also include the following requirement:

• Personal responsibility – participant is required to take responsibility to accurately record or report their attendance at their requirements.

You **must** remove this requirement if you determine that a participant is lacking the ability to accurately report their own attendance and/or self-manage their participation online. The next lesson

will show you how to determine this.

Back to Rose

You now know what's needed to create Rose's job plan and commence her in services. At the initial interview with Rose, you will explain to her 'what a job plan is' and her mutual obligation requirements – i.e. what she is required to do in return for her income support. You will then create her job plan.

Below is an example of a job plan. Click on the hotspots to learn more about each element.

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	Job Plan
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The participant must understand what their mutual obligation requirements are and the consequences of not meeting them.

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These mutual obligation requirements cannot be removed from the job plan.

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As a provider, you must evaluate a participant's capacity for the personal responsibility requirement. If you decide they cannot self-report, you can remove this requirement from their job plan.

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This requirement applies to participants in Workforce Australia Online only.

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The mandatory activity must be added when the provider determines the participant is required to undertake this requirement and removed when the activity has been completed.

To receive her income support, Rose will need to agree to the job plan which includes the core requirements. You will need to determine whether Rose can accurately record attendance at, or completion of, her requirements (to be discussed in the next lesson).

A participant can bring a support person, including an interpreter, to the initial interview to support them to understand and review their job plan. You are required to use an interpreter to ensure the participant understands their mutual obligation requirements if you consider this is appropriate.

What are the steps for creating a job plan at the initial interview? Match the description on the left with the steps on the right.



What are the job plan requirements? Match each requirement on the left with the participant's actions on the right.



Which of the following requirements must be removed from the job plan if determined it's not appropriate to the participant?

Actioning job referrals and opportunities

Accept and retain suitable work

Personal responsibility



Next up - Evaluating personal responsibility

CONTINUE

Lesson 4 of 6

Evaluating personal responsibility



A participant must be able to take responsibility for recording or reporting their attendance at their mutual obligation requirements.

For any compulsory requirement in their job plan, the participant must be able to:

- manage their own participation online, or with appropriate support, by using their homepage
- report their attendance by close of business on the day of the requirement at third-party appointments, provider scheduled job interviews and the mandatory activity (where applicable).

Your role is to determine if the participant is able to manage their participation online and self-report their own attendance.

The requirement of personal responsibility is pre-populated into the job plan. However, if you determine that this requirement is not appropriate for the participant, it must be removed.

Back to Rose...

Does Rose have the capability to report her participation online? Let's find out.

In the last lesson, Rose was at her initial interview, and you have explained to her what a job plan is and what her mutual obligation requirements are.

Now, you must determine if Rose can take responsibility for recording or reporting her attendance at her mutual obligation requirements.

This is what Rose told you during her initial interview.

- She is 25 years old.
- She has a year 10 certificate and has had little work experience since leaving school.
- She wants to work with children.
- She speaks English as a second language and would like to improve her English skills.
- She has recently been diagnosed with depression.
- She lives in a capital city with good access to transport.
- She does not have a laptop but has a smartphone with reliable internet and has basic IT literacy skills.



A participant must be capable of self-managing their



A participant should be able to:

- connect their myGov profile to their Workforce Australia account
- log on to the Workforce Australia Services website and/or app
- view their homepage
- report their participation to receive points.

A participant will also need access to reliable technology such as a computer or smartphone that will allow them to record their participation.

They will need to understand:

- what they need to report
- what to do if they cannot report their requirements
- what to do if their circumstances change
- the consequences of not reporting their requirements.

You will need to determine if a participant is capable of taking personal responsibility and managing their participation online. Click on the tabs to see what happens in each of these cases.

CAPABLE

NOT CAPABLE

If a participant is determined capable, the personal responsibility requirement will remain in their job plan. The participant must agree to and understand that they must undertake this requirement. This means the participant will need to report their:

- attendance on the same day at compulsory third-party appointments, job interviews or at the mandatory activity requirement (if required)
- completion of tasks and attendance at activities to gain points through the PBAS.



CAPABLE

NOT CAPABLE

If a participant is determined not capable, the personal responsibility requirement must be removed from their job plan. Your role will be to:

• work with the participant to improve their digital capability*

- report their attendance at compulsory third-party appointments, job interviews or at the mandatory activity requirement (if required) on the same day
- report the completion of tasks and attendance at activities on the participant's behalf.

*When the participant is capable and willing, you can update their job plan to include this requirement.



Returning to Rose ...



 $\mathsf{Continue}\ \rightarrow\ \mathsf{Next}\,\mathsf{Slide}$



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Scene 1 Slide 8

 $\mathsf{Continue}\ \rightarrow\ \mathsf{End}\ \mathsf{of}\ \mathsf{Scenario}$

Knowledge check

You will need to decide if the following participants should have the personal responsibility requirement removed from their job plan. Work out your answer and then click the button to reveal a model answer.



Peter is 56 years old and did not finish high school. He worked in manufacturing until he recently injured himself and had to stop working. He is interested in a career change.

Peter has low digital literacy and has never used a computer before but is very keen to take courses to learn. He does not have access to a laptop or smartphone. He lives in a capital city.

Should the requirement for personal responsibility be kept in Peter's job plan?



I'm ready to check my ideas

Peter may not be capable of navigating and reporting his participation online. He has low digital literacy and has never used a computer before. However, Peter indicates that he is keen to learn. It is proposed that the personal responsibility requirement should be removed from his job plan, and you should work with him to improve his digital skills, so he has the ability to report his participation online.



Lyn is unemployed but looking for work. She has caring responsibilities for 2 children aged between 7 and 10 years and is interested in obtaining part-time work in hospitality.

She lives in a regional location. She owns a laptop and smartphone. She has basic IT skills but does not enjoy using the internet.

Should the requirement for personal responsibility be kept in Lyn's job plan?



I'm ready to check my ideas

With appropriate support Lyn would be able to report her participation online and manage her mutual obligation requirements. She has basic IT skills and access to technology that will enable her to report her participation online. Lyn has reported that she does not enjoy using the internet, but she should be supported and encouraged to service herself online.

The first step is for Lyn to connect her myGov profile to her Workforce Australia account. You can then work with her one-on-one to show her how to navigate to her homepage online and report her participation in tasks and activities to earn points.

If Lyn's confidence is still lacking, she would benefit from a group workshop and/or you could encourage Lyn to take some short courses to improve her IT skills.

Next up - Entering and updating a job plan

CONTINUE

Lesson 5 of 6

Entering and updating a job plan



Once the job plan has been created, it must be provided to the participant for their agreement. A participant must be formally notified that they must agree to their job plan and that if they fail to agree, they may have their income support suspended. A script is available on the department's IT system to read to the participant.

A participant's agreement to the job plan is important as it is their acknowledgment that they understand:

- that they have mutual obligation requirements to undertake in return for income support
- what their mutual obligation requirements are
- the consequences of not meeting their mutual obligation requirements.

It is also on the agreement of the job plan that the participant is commenced in services. A participant can agree to their job plan online or in hard copy.

Agreement online

•	Send to the participant's homepage through the Workforce Australia Services website or the
	app.

• Inform the participant either face-to-face or over the phone that the job plan has been sent to their homepage for agreement.

Agreement in hard copy

- The participant may sign a hard copy of the job plan but it will still need to be created in the department's IT system
- Once the job plan is created and approved in the department's IT system, the participant must be given the signed hard copy

A participant can have up to 2 business days 'think time' to consider the requirements in the job plan and agree to it.

If a participant does not agree to their job plan after 2 business days they will have a mutual obligation failure. They will have 2 business days 'resolution time' to either agree to their job plan or provide a valid reason for not doing so. If, after 2 business days 'resolution time', the participant has not addressed the failure, their payment is suspended.





Agreement

The job plan can be sent online to a participant's homepage or signed in hard copy while in an appointment.



Formal notification

You must inform the participant that they must agree to their job plan and the consequences of failing to do so.



Think time

Participants can have up to 2 business days 'think time' to consider their mutual obligation requirements in the job plan. The Targeted Compliance Framework (TCF) will apply if they do not agree to the job plan after this time.



Commencement

Once the job plan is agreed, the participant is commenced in Workforce Australia Services.

Once a job plan has been agreed by the participant, it will need to be updated if the participant:

- requires the personal responsibility requirement to be added or removed from the job plan to reflect the participant's capability to self-manage their reporting
- is required to undertake Work for the Dole as their mandatory activity requirement in which case the requirement is added to the job plan, or when the activity has been completed and is removed from the job plan
- has a Capability Interview or Capability Assessment where it is identified that there are errors in compulsory requirements, or the participant is not capable of meeting their requirements based on their circumstances
- moves between Workforce Australia Online and Workforce Australia Services or changes providers in Workforce Australia Services.

Every time the job plan is updated, the changes must be discussed with the participant to ensure they understand what has been updated.

The participant can have up to 2 business days 'think time' to consider the updated job plan.

Back to Rose...

Rose has finished her initial interview; her job plan was created (with personal responsibility included) and she agreed to it online while at the initial interview. Rose has been in services for several months.

Rose has not been reporting her requirements online and she did not meet her points requirement. She has been suspended and is required to re-engage. You make an appointment with Rose to discuss why she did not meet her points requirement.

Rose explains that her internet got cut off and her phone keeps running out of data so she has been finding it difficult to report and manage her requirements online.

Does Rose require an update to her job plan?

I'm ready to check my ideas

As Rose has advised you that her internet got cut off, you would deem that this is a valid reason for not meeting her points requirement, change the re-engagement requirement to no longer required and remove the demerit.

It may be appropriate to remove the personal responsibility requirement from the plan until she has more reliable internet access and can manage her requirements online. If her circumstances change, the personal responsibility requirement can be added back into the job plan.

Check your understanding

True

A participant must be formally notified that they must agree to their job plan.





A participar	t must agree to their job plan online.	
\bigcirc	True	

SUBM	ІТ	

equireme	nt.
\bigcirc	True
\bigcirc	False

An updated job plan must be agreed by the participant.



Just the summary to go!

CONTINUE

Lesson 6 of 6

Summary



Let's recap

A job plan is a participant's acknowledgment and commitment to meet their mutual obligation requirements by actively participating in employment services in return for their income support. You play a significant role in ensuring that all participants with mutual obligation requirements agree to a job plan.

There are a number of steps to creating a job plan. These include:

- ensuring that the participant understands their requirements as outlined in their job plan
- deciding if a participant is capable of meeting the personal responsibility requirement and if they are not, removing it from their job plan

• sharing the job plan with the participant for their agreement and ensuring the participant understands the consequences of not agreeing to their job plan.

Congratulations! You've finished the module.