



FAQs about the Employment Service in Schools (ESiS)

What is the Employment Service in Schools (ESiS) pilot?

ESiS is a pilot set up by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) and the Ministry of Education (MoE), to provide additional services to help disabled secondary school students including those with health conditions to prepare for employment when they leave school. The pilot started in February 2021 and will run to June 2022.

Why has this been developed?

Currently disabled people can access the Employment Service funded by MSD when they leave school. The addition of ESiS means this type of employment support is available earlier while students are in their last 2 years at school.

What is the difference between this service and other MSD transition support?

- ESiS focuses primarily on employment
- It is available to a wider range of students than the MSD transition support – not just students who are supported through the Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS)
- It is a pilot and so only available in certain areas until June 2022.

Who can access ESiS?

Students who are in their last two years of secondary school and face barriers to employment due to disability or learning support needs including long term physical and mental health conditions and those who identify as neuro-diverse.

Do I need to attend the workshop to access the service?

No. The workshops are important events to help establish the service in each region, but schools and students can join at any time. To be part of the pilot a school needs to agree to join the pilot.

When will the service start and will we have to wait?

The service is available now so the only wait you may experience is time for the referral to be completed by the school, sent to the provider and checked by MSD. The provider sends each referral to MSD to check if the student is eligible services. We have allowed two business days for MSD to do this.

Where can I find more information about the ESiS pilot?

These FAQ and the information sheet for students and educators provide initial information. ESiS service providers will share their brochures with schools to support students and families to choose the provider they wish to use. You can talk to your school and provider for more information or send any questions to [Employment Service in Schools@msd.govt.nz](mailto:Employment_Service_in_Schools@msd.govt.nz).

Who are the providers for the ESiS pilot?

| Location | Provider name | Contact details |
|-------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Auckland | APM Workcare | Mateara Pauka mateara.pauka@apmworkcare.co.nz Hayleer King hayleer.king@apmworkcare.co.nz |
| | Autism New Zealand | Karen Lonergan Karen.lonergan@autismnz.org.nz |
| | Pasifika Consulting | Sosefo Sime sime@pasifikaconsulting.co.nz |
| | Transitioning Out Aotearoa | Annemarie Stade Annemarie.stade@toa.org.nz |
| Waikato | Career Moves Trust | Mark Smith Mark@careermoves.org.nz |
| | Enrich + | David Ireland David.Ireland@enrichplus.org.nz |
| Wellington | APM Workcare | Renee Leishman Renee.leishman@apmworkcare.co.nz |
| | Habit Health | Jo Cumming Jo.Cumming@habit.co.nz |
| | Horowhenua Learning Centre | Jo Robinson jo@hlc.ac.nz |
| Canterbury | Catapult Employment Services | Vicky Braid Vickybraid@ces.org.nz |
| | Choices New Zealand | Laura Oldfield-Connor laura.oldfield-connor@choicesnz.org.nz |
| Otago - Southland | APM Workcare | Allan Baird Allan.Baird@apmworkcare.co.nz |
| | CCS Disability Action | Mel Smith Melissa.Smith@ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz |
| | Choices New Zealand | Tracey Saunders tracey.saunders@choicesnz.org.nz |

What will happen after the workshops?

Providers are ready to receive referrals from the pilot schools after the workshops. They will also talk to schools who are in the approved to be in the pilot but did not attend the workshop.

A plan with agreed actions for each region will be circulated after each workshop.

How do we make a referral?

A referral form and ESiS information sheet are available. After the workshops schools should talk to individual students and families about ESiS and if they are in agreement, the referral form can be signed and sent by the school to the providers. The provider will send the referral form to MSD not the schools.

This is a pilot what does that mean?

In a pilot we will co-design, develop, test and refine the service so it works for students and whānau in each school and community context. It is an opportunity for collaboration across all involved. The pilot will be evaluated so we have further evidence about what works and what doesn't and can build in improvements early on.

What will happen when the pilot finishes?

Any continuation or extension of the programme will be dependent on the evaluation outcomes. When a student leaves school they can continue to be supported through the Employment Service if this is needed.

In this new service what is most important for parents and students?

Parents or whānau and students gave us some clear messages about what is important to them in ESiS during the workshops. They said:

- listen to us
- providers and government departments should work together because the system is already hard to navigate and we already have many, many people to work with and this is very hard to manage
- provide clear information and a key contact person
- be available at a time that works for the family
- be available if things fall over
- follow up and do what you say you will do
- make sure choice and control sits with students and whānau
- we (parents) want to be kept in the loop as part of the conversation to co-design better employment and transition services.

ESIS FAQ for students, parents, families and whānau

How do I know which ESiS provider to chose?

Schools will provide you with information about each of the providers. You are welcome to talk to the providers to help you chose.

We want students and whānau to be the people who chose the provider based on what will work best for them. If you are not happy with your choice of provider you can change your mind.

Is a diagnosis needed to access ESiS?

No, diagnosis is not needed to access the service. ESiS is for students who are in their last two years of secondary school and who face barriers to employment due to disability or learning support needs including long term physical and mental health conditions and those who identify as neuro-diverse.

Our school is in a small town. Will the service come to us?

Yes, the providers will work in all of the schools in the pilot.

Should we move from the MSD transition service to the ESiS?

Discuss this with school staff with a focus on what is most important at this time. ESiS focuses more on employment and is available in the last two years of school (until the end of June 2022). The transition service focuses more of transition and is available in the last year of school.

You can't access both of these services at the same time but if the young person is supported through the Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS) they can access transition or ESiS.

If you are not happy with the decision you make you can change your mind.

If my son or daughter gets a job will ESiS continue to support them?

Yes, the provider will support the student until they leave school. If the student requires support once they leave school, they may sign up with an Employment Service provider.

What if things 'fall over' and they lose their job?

If a student is still at school, they can continue to work with a ESiS provider. If they have left school, they can access the Employment Service.

What if my young person attends a school that is not part of the pilot will they miss out?

Your local Ministry of Education contacts can approach your school to see if they would like to be part of the pilot. If they do not agree we would need to discuss what other support is available.

My son or daughter has left school so have they missed out?

They can access the Employment Service which provides support to help disabled people into sustainable employment.

What is the Employment Service?

The Employment Service is an MSD service for those who have left school who face ongoing barriers to employment due to an illness or disability that will last longer than 6 months. The focus of this service is to get adults into paid employment and support them for 12 months. The support is offered by 36 providers around New Zealand (including those in the ESIS Pilot). Please contact Employment_Service_in_Schools@msd.govt.nz for a list of Employment Service Providers if you feel this would be helpful.

How is the Employment Service different to ESIS?

The ESIS service is available only to students still at secondary school and the Employment Service is available to people who have are no longer at school.

Is there a guarantee of a job through ESIS?

While the overall aim of ESIS is to have the student in sustainable employment when they leave school, the focus is to prepare students for employment through skill development and work experiences/trials, there is no guarantee of a job at the end of the service.

The providers who deliver the service are experts in preparing people for work and finding employment opportunities. Starting the transition and employment experience early provides the best foundation for employment success

I want to know about the whole range of supports that are available when my son or daughter leaves school. How will I access the information I need?

There is no one single source of information for all students and parents. Work with those who currently provide support through health, education and income support (MSD) as a starting point. Ask them to help you access any new information and services you will need once your son or daughter leaves school.

Can I go into the Employment Service?

Not while you're at school however there is a seamless transition from the ESIS to the Employment Service when the time is right.

ESIS FAQs for schools and educators

Who should we refer to the ESiS?

Schools and whānau are best placed to identify students who are most likely to benefit from the service. Consider students with a range of needs without limiting access to just set groups. Schools should be guided by indicative numbers available for the pilot, and refer students who:

- are in their last 2 years of school
- face barriers to employment due to disability, learning support needs including health or neurodiversity.

All of our students need help with employment, do we refer them all?

No, refer an initial group and be guided by feedback about the number of available places going forward. MSD will track how numbers are progressing.

What other employment and transition support options are available to young people?

ESiS is only one type of support available. Other options include:

- MSD transition support for students who are verified on the Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS) and who are in their last year of school
- Mainstream Employment Support – an MSD service available to people after they leave school. Participants have lined up a job but face additional barriers
- Enabling Good Lives and Mana Whakaha
- MSD funding for students with ORS Very High needs when they leave school
- School based vocational support such as Careers support, Gateway and Vocational Pathways.
- the Employment Service is available once a young person leaves school.

Can a student who is aged 16 years or above work during school hours when they are still enrolled at school?

Yes, although the type of work will determine how the school manages the student enrolment.

The points below cover different scenarios and school requirements.

- Paid work (as an employee or contractor) – this is possible if the student is aged 16 or above, but the school must report the student as part-time. The student cannot be in paid employment during school hours if the student is in full-time education.
- Work-experience / unpaid work – if the work experience is part of the students learning/transition plan (e.g. ESiS or Gateway) then this is fine, and the school can continue to report the student full time.

When can't a student undertake paid work during school hours while they are still at school?

As per the answer above a student cannot undertake paid work when:

- they are under 16 years
- they are listed in the roll return as being full time at school. For example, a student in paid employment during work hours must be enrolled as a part time student – e.g. one day per week in paid employment, four days in school would equate to 0.8 FTE part time.

Can a student undertake other vocational learning and transition courses whilst participating in the ESiS?

Yes, all students participating in the ESiS are eligible to participate in secondary-tertiary or work-place learning programmes such as Trades Academies and Gateway. Schools also have discretion in how its Secondary-Tertiary Alignment Resource (STAR) funding is used. For more information about these courses please refer to <https://youthguarantee.education.govt.nz/initiatives/opportunities-at-school-and-beyond/>

Can a young person access ESiS if they are part of Mana Whaikaha, Enabling Good Lives?

Yes, if it would add value to but not duplicate existing support.

Can a young person who is supported through the ORS access ESiS and the Transition Service at the same time?

No, they cannot access both at the same time. They need to choose one or the other.

How will schools and providers manage additional barriers such as costs for travel and travel time, the need for people to provide support, course costs, or barriers specific to rural communities? Will the pilot provide additional funding to schools and families to meet these costs?

The ESiS funding is used to engage service providers and there are no additional funds for those other purposes. Existing pools of funding would need to be used to address these barriers wherever possible.

How will ESiS link with events or collaborations already underway in local communities with a focus on transitions and employment.

ESiS will add value and not replace other services and forums with a focus on employment and transition post-secondary school.