



## Relocation Assistance to Take Up a Job Evaluation Key Findings

The Relocation Assistance to Take Up a Job (RATTUAJ) evaluation report has been released on the Department of Jobs and Small Business<sup>1</sup> (the Department) website.

The RATTUAJ programme started on 1 July 2014. It assists job seekers with the costs of moving for a job (including an apprenticeship) to encourage them to relocate to areas with better employment prospects.

RATTUAJ operated under Job Services Australia (JSA) until 30 June 2015 and then continued under the jobactive employment services program. RATTUAJ is also available to people receiving help from Disability Employment Services (DES).

The Department engaged an independent consultant, Colmar Brunton, to conduct research to support the evaluation of the RATTUAJ programme in the first eighteen months of its operation. The evaluation used administrative data and qualitative and quantitative research to examine the programme's effectiveness, efficiency and appropriateness.

Consistent with expected take up, the evaluation found that the financial assistance provided through RATTUAJ was effective in helping long-term unemployed job seekers who were motivated to relocate for employment. Most participants successfully relocated and many were still in employment six months after relocation.

- For participants who relocated in the JSA period of the evaluation:
  - 66 per cent achieved a 13 week employment outcome
  - 49 per cent achieved a 26 week employment outcome
  - 58 per cent of participants were off income support 12 months after the agreement start date, 22 percentage points greater than for job seekers who were placed in ongoing employment but did not participate in RATTUAJ.
  
- For participants who relocated in the jobactive period of the evaluation:
  - 84 per cent achieved a 4 week employment outcome
  - 79 per cent achieved a 12 week employment outcome
  - 64 per cent achieved a 26 week employment outcome
  - 63 per cent were off income support 12 months after agreement start date.

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<sup>1</sup> The Department of Jobs and Small Business replaced the Department of Employment as a result of the Administrative Arrangements Order - amendment made 20 December 2017.

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The evaluation found that key factors for successful relocation and sustained employment were:

- quality job matching
- the financial assistance received
- strong social support networks
- supportive employment service providers
- availability of suitable and affordable accommodation.

The evaluation also identified key barriers to relocation, including:

- job seekers being unwilling or unable to move away from family and friends
- job seekers reporting that their providers had poor awareness and understanding of the programme, with confusion about eligible expenses
- issues with the reimbursement model, as eligible job seekers (unemployed for 12 months or more) often did not have the financial resources to pay upfront relocation costs
- employers providing relatively short timeframes for job seekers to relocate in.