



Targeted Compliance Framework: CDP provider discretion and flexibility

The Targeted Compliance Framework (TCF) is being extended to the Community Development Program (CDP). This is part of reforms proposed to deliver a fairer and simpler system to drive employment and engagement with job seekers.

The TCF supports vulnerable participants through increased support and more check-in points with their local service provider. CDP providers will have more responsibility and control to work with and support CDP participants through their interaction with the TCF, than under current arrangements.

Applying the TCF in the CDP context

Policy principles and operational guidelines will direct the TCF's application in remote Australia. These take into account remote Australia's unique conditions, with a broad range of acceptable situations when providers can use their judgement and discretion to determine compliance.

CDP provider discretion

Under the TCF, providers (rather than the Department of Human Services) exercise judgement as to whether or not a job seeker has a valid reason for non-compliance, in most cases. CDP providers will have the flexibility to determine whether the participant has an acceptable reason for not meeting their requirements. If the CDP provider considers there was a valid reason, no demerit is applied.

In considering whether a job seeker has a valid reason, CDP providers consider a range of factors, including whether the participant did not attend due to:

- cultural or sorry business
- caring/family reasons
- housing instability issues
- local issues/natural disasters
- travel and transport issues
- mental or physical illness.



Community Development Program reforms

More opportunities for job seekers

The TCF removes 'No Show No Pay' financial penalties for one-off failures to meet Mutual Obligation Requirements. Instead, providers must talk to job seekers about their situation and consider the application of a demerit if required. There will be no financial penalty at this point.

In addition, the TCF adds the additional protection of two separate assessments (with their local provider and with the Department of Human Services) to confirm whether a job seeker understands their job plan, is capable of meeting their requirements, or if they have barriers that make it difficult to meet their requirements.

More flexible hours

CDP participants will be able to meet their Mutual Obligation Requirements by taking part in activities beyond standard daily arrangements. This can occur when participants are meeting their regular requirements and want to structure their activity requirements differently.

These flexible hours include activities outside of standard business hours, or concentrating participation over different days. This change will increase the Program's flexibility so it is more reflective of present workplace practices, where people may work different length shifts and allows CDP providers to deliver plans to best suit participants and local communities' needs.

Stronger connections to local culture and traditions

Providers will be able to use their discretion to not apply penalties if a participant is not meeting their Mutual Obligation Requirements due to cultural or sorry business.

Providers are also encouraged to deliver activities that not only accommodate but also promote and celebrate cultural business. This recognises the importance of maintaining culture and traditions in contributing to community development, community participation, and building work-like skills.

More information

For enquires about CDP in your region, contact the provider in your region or the [Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Regional Network](#).

Visit the [CDP page](#) or [contact us](#) for details about the Program.

The Department of Jobs and Small Business website has more information [about the TCF](#).