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**Expression of Interest Invitation:**

**TAFE Specialist Employment Partnership (TSEP)**

Dear (Specialist Employment Service Manager),

We are seeking a prospective SPECIALIST EMPLOYMENT SERVICE partner who is willing to invest in research and development in the specialist arena of graduate employment for TAFE students with disability, to build organisational experience and competency within a TAFE campus and improve employment rates for students with disability.

Project Rationale

The TSEP program is modelled on the successful University Specialist Employment Partnerships (USEP) national project, initiated by the NDCO program in response to the identified need to increase the employment rate of Graduates with a disability. <https://www.tsep.com.au>

In 2019 there were 75,255 students with disability (9.93%) enrolled in TAFE nationally.

A majority of TAFE students self-report that they are mostly investing the effort and time into their study in the hopes that it will create employment opportunities for them.

72.5% of TAFE students state that they mainly engaged in study for employment-related reasons – be it a requirement of their job that they do the course, to get a better job, to get a job, go for a promotion, or to develop or start a business.

For students who graduated from a TAFE course in 2018-19, 71.3% were employed overall.  Some of the balance of students go on to further study, and some remain unemployed and looking for work.

Employment rates for TAFE students with disability are alarming – 49.1% of TAFE graduates with disability are employed post-study, compared to 74.2% of their peers without disability, and the overall rate of 76.1%.

This gap is also reflected in students with disabilities who were not employed before training with an employment rate of 27.7% post-training.  Their fellow students without disability who were not employed before study have an employment rate of 43.6% post-training.

The TSEP project aims to meet with as many TAFE students with disability as possible to identify and address the systemic blocks and barriers to employment, whilst simultaneously providing specialist employment support for short term impact.

*Source:* [https://www.ncver.edu.au/research-and-statistics/data/all-data/vet-student-outcomes-2019-data-slicer](https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/GkqXCXLWQ9uXVOPGt6m9-p?domain=ncver.edu.au))

The TAFE Specialist Employment Partnership (TSEP)program has been established to suit the TAFE environment and students by partnering with a local Specialist Employment Service and TAFE in identified regions within Australia.

The TSEP program is a long-term strategic partnership that in time will build into a financially viable exercise for providers increasing student registrations, employment outcomes and strategic relationships with TAFE and industry.

Working independently of any provider servicing requirements, the TSEP consultant is able to put their whole focus into working to prepare and place students into employment aligned with their qualifications and/or study.

**TAFE Specialist Employment Partnership (TSEP)**

The consultant will approach employers and work with peak bodies and other specialist employment organisations to promote TAFE graduate employment opportunities for people with disability and for their host TAFE.

Time spent on campus is to be negotiated between all parties dependent upon student eligibility to register for direct or early school leaver services.

When giving consideration some key attributes of the SPECIALIAST EMPLOYMENT SERVICE consultant may have:

* A sound understanding of the TAFE graduate space and if not the willingness to learn.
* Capability to network and engage professionally with TAFE staff and departments including Jobs and Skills Centres, Career Advisors and Disability Liaison Officers.

If your organisation would like to be involved in this program, we require you to submit an expression of interest by (*date to be inserted here*) outlining your proposal on why and how your organisation will work with the program.

Yours Sincerely

(*insert contact details here*)