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Work in progress Employment bulletin

Disability pension changes

BARKUMA has welcomed changes that will make it easier for people receiving the disability support pension (DSP) to enter the workforce.

The changes remove the assessment of the pension when people register with an employment service provider.

Craig Harrison from Personnel Employment, a division of Barkuma Inc., says the assessment of the pension has been a barrier for people entering paid employment.

“There’s anecdotal evidence on a national level that people have withdrawn from employment services because of their perceived risk of losing the DSP after being assessed,” he says.

“This change provides security to people who have a disability in taking steps to find work. They feel safer knowing that they will continue to receive their pension throughout the process.”

From September 8, when people register with an employment service provider, only their capacity to work will be assessed.