

Expression of Interest

# **To: The Disability Employment Services Manager**

Are you interested in an exciting new partnership? Have you heard of University Specialist Employment Partnerships (USEP)? This program is underway at numerous universities and Disability Employment Services (DES) nationally, and there are opportunities for new partnerships.

# **Background**

USEP was developed in response to the identified need to increase the employment rate of graduates with disability. Statistically, graduates with disability are not on equal terms in comparison to their peers when finding employment; 23.5% of graduates with disability are unemployed and looking for full-time work compared to 11.3% of their peers.

# **Key principles of the USEP model**

This innovative program establishes an on-campus specialist recruitment service that links a Disability Employment Service consultant with university career advisors. Initially, the DES consultant would be located at (insert name and campus) for one day per week, to work with students who have recently graduated or are in their last year of study.

We are looking for a prospective DES partner from an organisation who is willing to invest in research and development in the specialist area of graduate employment for students with disability. We are looking for organisations who would like to build their experience and competency working on campus to improve employment rates for graduates with disability.

DES providers will be able to build relationships with students that may lead to direct registration at the right time, off campus. This is a long-term strategic partnership that may take time to build into a financially viable exercise for a DES provider. As USEP is active nationally, it is essential that all partners are willing to work together to maximise the success of the program.

Working independently of DES servicing requirements, the USEP consultant will direct their focus to working on campus and virtually preparing and placing students with disability into graduate employment. They will work in partnership with university and faculty staff to approach graduate employers and work with peak organisations and JobAccess to promote graduate employment opportunities for people with disability at their host university.

# **Next step**

If your organisation would like to be involved in this program, please complete the attached expression of interest form by (date). For more information or to submit an expression of interest, please contact:

(name) (position) (organisation)(email) (phone)