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Careerone Editor

WORKERS whose jobs have been made redundant can get immediate help to get a new job, starting from Wednesday.

That's when the Federal Government's early access program for employment services swings into effect. Take a letter from your employer (saying that you have been made redundant and when you will be out of work) into a Centrelink office and you will immediately qualify for intensive help. That includes career counselling, resume writing, training courses, and up to \$550 work expenses (to cover items such as work boots or getting a forklift licence for example).

Sarina Russo Job Access CEO Kevin Ayre says previously redundant workers had to wait for three months to be eligible for that level of help.

The point is, he says, that it is immediate, personalised service matched to what jobs are available now and what the job seeker wants to do. That has to be good. There are plenty of workers out there who haven't been out of a job for years – decades – who have no idea how to even start the process. (For the record, a great place to start is a visit to Centrelink to work out what assistance you can get and what the next steps should be.)

This extra help takes the scare factor out of being made redundant.

Unfortunately, it won't take the sting away. That horrid feeling, I reckon, is bound to stick around for some time.

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