

Local Jobs Plan

Murray and South East Employment Region | SA | June 2024

Workforce Australia Local Jobs (Local Jobs) is a program that supports tailored approaches to accelerate reskilling, upskilling and employment pathways in response to current and emerging local workforce needs.

Local Jobs elements

Local Jobs Plan

The Local Jobs Plan sets out the skills and employment challenges and priorities of the region, and associated strategies that will drive the design and implementation of activities to be implemented to address these challenges.

Employment Facilitators

Employment Facilitators and Support Officers support the delivery of the program by bringing together key stakeholders including businesses, employment services providers, higher education, and training organisations.

Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce

Each Employment Region has its own Taskforce. Representatives include local stakeholders who have demonstrated experience in upskilling, reskilling, and an ability to represent, connect and collaborate with others in the region to meet labour market needs.

Local Recovery and National Priority Funds

The Local Recovery Fund supports projects that meet the priorities identified in the Local Jobs Plan. The National Priority Fund provides funding for innovative local solutions to address structural barriers to employment



Explore labour market insights for the [Murray and South East Employment Region](#)

Local labour market challenges in the region

- Demand for skilled and unskilled labour across all sectors.
- Lack of affordable housing and accommodation to attract new people to the regions to accept local vacancies.
- Higher than average unemployment and underemployment including long term unemployed, youth, Aboriginal and mature aged cohorts.
- Participants have limited access to driver licences and reliable vehicles to access work opportunities – public transport availability is a significant barrier to employment in the region.
- Lack of affordable training facilities and local Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) to deliver quality training in region.

Local jobs and skills priorities and strategies in the region

Priority 1 – Local people for local jobs

What are our challenges and opportunities?

With significant labour shortages, businesses large and small find it difficult to fill skilled and non-skilled vacancies. With limited housing available, they are unable to attract new workers to the region. Enabling existing unemployed or underemployed individuals living in the region would assist in filling these vacancies however, many long-term unemployed people face significant challenges to employment.

How are we responding?

- Maximising the opportunity for local positions to be secured by local individuals and ensuring they are adequately skilled to assume employment opportunities.
- Addressing challenges to employment to ensure participants are skilled in line with employment opportunities, including traineeships and apprenticeships.
- Engaging with businesses and industry to identify skill gaps to facilitate and support entry-level position training and development opportunities.
- Promoting other pre-employment funding opportunities such as Launch into Work and other program activities to businesses and industry.
- Co-designing pre-employment programs with proponents and Workforce Australia Apprentice Connect providers to address the challenges to employment whilst also providing skills training for specific industries.
- Working with businesses to consider other more flexible employment pathways such as job share, traineeships and apprenticeships and transport opportunities to assist people to get to and from work.
- Collaborating with providers to break down the challenges to long-term unemployment and target activities and programs that can directly address these issues with a focus on youth, Indigenous and mature age people.
- Hosting jobs and skills showcase events across the Limestone Coast, Murraylands and Riverland to highlight current employment opportunities to people looking for work and connect them directly with employers.

Priority 2 – Stakeholder partnerships and leveraging funding

What are our challenges and opportunities?

Businesses across the region are all competing for the same employees and with critical worker shortages businesses are unable to meet their current business requirements and expand to meet future demands.

How are we responding?

- Maximising opportunities for partnerships and leverage funding to create pathways into health care, food processing, horticulture, forestry, agriculture, diary and construction growth industries.
- Working directly with businesses to increase participation, collaboration across industry sectors and determine required skill sets and career pathways.
- Consulting with training providers to meet training demands for industry.

- Consulting with South Australian and Australian Government departments and Regional Development Australia boards to collaborate on funding opportunities to develop programs with multiple funding sources to meet regional gaps and demand for employment, training, and upskilling.

Priority 3 – Employment and career pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

What are our challenges and opportunities?

The Murray and South East region has a diverse range of Aboriginal people from the lands of the Naralte, Nganguraku, Ngarkat, Ngarrindjeri, Ngawait and Wergaia and in the Limestone Coast, the Boandik and Bindjali. Opportunities exist to support greater inclusion for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within the local labour market and provide more equitable access to skilling and employment pathways.

How are we responding?

- Creating Indigenous partnerships for employment and training by collaborating with industry and Indigenous organisations.
- Identifying training programs which assist with resilience and soft skills including developing interview techniques, understanding employer expectations, and building confidence in the workplace.
- Developing and/or supporting pre-employment engagement programs that build aspirations and capacity for young Indigenous individuals (age 15 to 25).
- Working with Indigenous organisations, industry groups, businesses, employers, RTOs and peak bodies to identify suitable entry-level employment opportunities and to increase cultural awareness and understanding.
- Working closely with local agencies, secondary education institutions and Indigenous groups to leverage support for young Indigenous people to move into sustainable employment, especially promoting working on country, Indigenous ranger, and other specific Aboriginal employment opportunities.
- Promoting local career pathways, apprenticeship, and traineeship opportunities.
- Addressing the challenges in gaining drivers licences through driving mentor programs.

Priority 4 – Youth unemployment and challenges to employment

What are our challenges and opportunities?

Young people face multiple challenges to employment in the region. There is an opportunity to develop local activities to better support young people to gain employment.

How are we responding?

- Leveraging off existing programs to develop local activities to support young people into employment, addressing specific challenges to employment.
- Building capacity of this cohort to by identifying training programs which assist with resilience and soft skills including developing interview techniques, understanding employer expectations, and building confidence in the workplace.
- Providing education and understanding of employment and career pathways to learning, training and employment.
- Working with businesses, industry, Apprentice Connect providers and group training organisations to educate and provide employment pathways.
- Tackling drivers licencing by initiating and supporting the L2P Driver Mentor Programs and collaborating with providers to ensure these programs support our most challenged cohorts.
- Improving opportunities for young people by building and maintaining strong connections between education, career transitions and post-secondary education training and employment with a focus on promoting local career opportunities.
- Conducting Jobs and Skills showcase events to highlight local employment and training opportunities.
- Working closely with young people and supporting agencies (i.e. Headspace, Transition to Work and ac.care South Australia) to understand their challenges and co-design place-based solutions that will assist in navigating the labour market, employment expectations and job opportunities.

Priority 5 – Workforce attraction for businesses and industry groups

What are our challenges and opportunities?

Lack of suitably skilled employees in the region with businesses unable to attract people from other regions due to lack of suitable and affordable housing. Local businesses unable to attract skilled labour inhibiting their ability to grow and meet current supply and demand opportunities.

How are we responding?

- Supporting businesses and industry, including emerging industries linked to the Net Zero transition to attract skilled workers to the region or upskill existing employees to increase capacity to provide more entry-level jobs.
- Consulting with local government, Regional Development Australia boards, and other significant stakeholders to identify and promote employment in the regions.
- Engaging with businesses and industry representatives including emerging Net Zero organisations to identify skill gaps in the region and enhance local employment opportunities.
- Engaging with businesses who are looking to build their capacity to take on more entry level positions, whilst also creating opportunities to upskill existing workers.
- Working with the Local Jobs taskforce to develop a plan to attract skilled workers to the region.
- Developing industry-specific activities or pre-employment programs to assist businesses in attracting and recruiting skilled and non-skilled workers.
- Conducting Jobs and Skills showcase events or other promotional activities to assist businesses to showcase employment opportunities and attract new workers.

Priority 6 – Mature age people

What are our challenges and opportunities?

The Murray and South East region has a higher than national average Mature Age cohort (45+) who are unemployed or underemployed.

How are we responding?

- Collaborating closely with Workforce Australia providers and programs including Self-Employment Assistance and Career Transition Assistance to support mature age people with new knowledge and skills to move into employment.
- Identifying challenges that prevent older people from re-entering the workforce.
- Identifying transferrable and individual skills strengths to open further career opportunities.
- Encouraging businesses and industry to consider employing mature age people and assist with training and upskilling programs.
- Establishing specific training, networking, and upskilling opportunities for mature age people.
- Supporting and encouraging mature age people including those who are retired to return to work or commence their own businesses to relieve skills gaps and increase their earning capacity.

Want to know more?

- Contact: Christine Willersdorf, Murray and South East Employment Facilitator: christine.willersdorf@employmentfacilitator.com.au
- Visit: [Local Jobs](#) or [Workforce Australia](#)