

Local Jobs Plan

South Eastern Melbourne and Peninsula | VIC | January 2023

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, and 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 [South Eastern Melbourne and Peninsula Employment Region](#)

Local labour market challenges in the region

- The youth unemployment rate has historically remained above the Victorian average.
- The availability of a culturally and linguistic diverse workforce and the means of integrating this cohort into the local labour market.
- Increased housing costs and limited transport infrastructure restricts the ability to identify and engage a local employment workforce across the region.
- A significantly higher ageing population in the Mornington Peninsula local government area is affecting demand in aged and community care services.
- High employment demand in a range of industries including health care and social assistance, construction, retail, manufacturing, and accommodation and food services.
- A diverse range of employment, community and training organisations as well as Local, State and Federal Government programs being delivered within the region independently rather than collaboratively to maximise effectiveness and impact.

Local jobs and skills priorities and strategies in the region

Priority 1 – Maximising the benefits of existing Australian Government, Victorian Government, local council and community driven employment and skills initiatives and funding to create pathways into major and growth industries

What are our challenges and opportunities?

We need to ensure stakeholders work together collaboratively to maximise the best outcomes for initiatives in the region.

How are we responding?

- We are connecting with all levels of government, providers and community groups to identify existing and planned employment and skills initiatives within the region, with the objective to align actions and resources.
- We have developed and implemented 4 Skills and Jobs Networks located in Peninsula, Frankston, Dandenong and Casey/Cardinia. These networks aim to bring together community-based service providers to identify sub-regional priorities and collaborate on the design and implementation of solutions to address challenges.
- We are maximising the use of government and community funding and resources to enhance the impact on community programs.

Priority 2 – Working with industry and employers to understand their workforce needs and developing industry-led training and employment initiatives to maximise opportunities and outcomes for local people

What are our challenges and opportunities?

We need to better understand and respond to the future workforce planning needs of industry and build a suitable labour force which meets those demands.

How are we responding?

- We are engaging with key industry and employer representatives to better understand required workforce needs and enhance engagement and involvement.
- In partnership with government, industry and education providers, we are developing specific industry-led employment pathway programs for skills in demand and identified skills gaps

- We are working with individuals, providers and industry to increase awareness and understanding of the changes in the post COVID-19 labour market and how through greater understanding and flexibility, current labour market needs can be met.
- We are actively participating in the development of the Jobs and Skills Plan being undertaken by the Greater South East Melbourne committee with the focus on regional jobs growth, job creation and job retention.

Priority 3 – Generating opportunities for youth skill development aligned to local employer and industry needs, including through training, apprenticeships, traineeships, mentorship and improved soft skills development

What are our challenges and opportunities?

Our regional youth unemployment rate continues to be well in above the Victorian average and our youth are disproportionately represented within the Workforce Australia caseload.

How are we responding?

- We are working closely with Local Learning and Employment Networks, State Government and industry to better identify future youth employment pathways to engage and develop job readiness programs and align industry pathways .
- We are working with education providers in the development and delivery of youth focused career pathway programs.
- We are working with Group Training Organisations, Australian Apprenticeships networks and specialist youth organisations to develop programs to overcome the barriers being experienced by youth seeking to transition to employment.

Priority 4 – Maximising the extent to which local positions are filled by local people in collaboration with employers, industry bodies and employment services providers

What are our challenges and opportunities?

A large percentage of the region’s workforce continue to travel outside of the area to secure employment opportunities which is negatively impacting community and social outcomes.

How are we responding?

- We are seeking to rebuild industry confidence in engaging with Workforce Australia providers and their participants through the increase in service quality, collaboration and delivery.
- We are maximising the awareness of regionally developed employment programs, employer opportunities, and upskilling ,training and assistance resources through an online Regional Activity Board for providers.
- We are engaging with industry to understand workforce planning needs earlier and facilitating the development of collaborative partnerships and programs that upskill and access local participants.
- We are working with providers to better understand and map the existing skills and desired vocational pathways of our participant caseload to enable better targeting of program and job matching.

Priority 5 – Brokering employment and education opportunities for socially disadvantaged and priority groups through collaboration with local community support services, employers, and training organisations.

What are our challenges and opportunities?

Our disadvantaged community members are disproportionately represented within our Workforce Australia caseload and have been those most significantly impacted by COVID-19. There is an opportunity to work together to broker opportunities for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) individuals, mature age, young people, females and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the region.

How are we responding?

- Our Taskforce has created the CALD sub-group that is working closely with community stakeholders and providers to understand the challenges and barriers to CALD employment to enable the identification and implementation of innovative solutions.
- We are developing a series of employer-focused events to showcase best practice engagement and employment initiatives that will seek to increase awareness, education and knowledge on how to successfully engage and employ participants from socially disadvantaged or priority groups.
- We are creating opportunities for priority groups by supporting access to available funding, initiatives and programs.

Priority 6 – Facilitating and supporting the transition of workers via reskilling and upskilling aligned to local skill needs and by promoting entrepreneurship.

What are our challenges and opportunities?

Increased operating and production costs and business competitiveness is resulting in the rationalisation of employers across a range of industries which is resulting in employee redundancies.

How are we responding?

- We are actively promoting the Workforce Australia Entrepreneurship Facilitators and Self-Employment Assistance programs through collaboration with providers.
- We remain highly responsive to employer redundancy events and will immediately engage with employers to ensure the availability of transitional support is communicated and facilitated.
- We will continue to work with Victorian and local governments to support displaced workers in transition, including sharing information on financial assistance, facilitating workshops and connecting them to available services.

Want to know more?

- Contact: Sean Teer, South Eastern Melbourne and Peninsula Employment Facilitator: Sean.Teer@employmentfacilitator.com.au
- Visit: [Local Jobs](#) or [Workforce Australia](#)