

# Local Jobs Plan

## Western Melbourne Employment Region | 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, 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 [Western Melbourne Employment Region](#)

### Local labour market challenges in the region

- Western Melbourne has a diverse labour market profile presenting strong job opportunities in growth industries and skills-in-demand sectors however the region has a history of labour market and social disadvantage.
- The proportion of the working age population on income support in Western Melbourne is higher than the Victorian average.
- Access to public transport and lack of public transport options that align with the start and end times for roles involving shift work.
- Young people represent a large percentage of the Workforce Australia Employment Services Provider caseload in the Western Melbourne region. Young people have a higher rate of youth disengagement and are not in study or work.
- Culturally and linguistically diverse and refugee cohorts face multiple barriers in applying their skills and experience within the Australian labour market.

### Local jobs and skills priorities and strategies in the region

#### Priority 1 – Priority industries including transport and logistics, and health care and social assistance

##### What are our challenges and opportunities?

There are opportunities to maximise the benefits of existing Australian, Victorian and local government programs to create pathways into major industries, particularly in transport and logistics, and health care and social assistance.

##### How are we responding?

- We are collaborating with transport and logistics, and health care and social assistance stakeholders to raise awareness of employment opportunities in the sector.
- We are working with local stakeholders to coordinate the range of pathways directly linked to current labour demand in the region to provide upskilling and reskilling for industries.
- We are coordinating and collaborating on industry specific jobs fairs across all levels of government to provide job opportunities for the local community.

#### Priority 2 – Major projects

##### What are our challenges and opportunities?

Maximising the extent to which local job seekers are skilled to meet the needs of major projects in the region, including infrastructure and other large-scale construction projects.

##### How are we responding?

- We are coordinating and collaborating on industry specific jobs fairs to provide job opportunities.
- We are working with local stakeholders to coordinate the range of pathways directly linked to major projects in the region to provide upskilling and reskilling for industry demand.
- We are working with large major projects contract holders to promote employment opportunities through the Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce.

## Priority 3 – Youth

### What are our challenges and opportunities?

There are opportunities to broker youth skill development and employment across all sectors, including apprenticeships and traineeships.

### How are we responding?

- We are collaborating with local governments to deliver youth careers and employment jobs fairs within their communities' expos, ensuring ongoing support for young people.
- We work with local community networks to design and deliver industry-specific programs to support young people engaging with industries.
- Our Taskforce is developing a consolidated picture of locally available youth services, programs, and initiatives to effectively inform the streamlined design of potential education, training and employment pathways to address local needs.

## Priority 4 – Barriers to employment for culturally and linguistically diverse individuals and refugees

### What are our challenges and opportunities?

There are opportunities to address barriers to employment for culturally and linguistically diverse and refugee participants by targeting supported employment pathways to job opportunities in priority sectors. Commonly reported barriers to employment include limited language, literacy and numeracy skills, lack of Australian work experience, limited access to transport and affordable housing close to employment, limited knowledge of Australian workplace culture and systems, and difficulties with recognition of prior skills, qualifications.

### How are we responding?

- We are providing support by connecting culturally and linguistically diverse and refugee participants to language, literacy and numeracy organisations that help to increase their communication skills and broaden their employment opportunities.
- We are working with employers to understand challenges regarding transport for culturally and linguistically diverse and refugee participants and building capacity to change working hours to align with public transport options.
- The Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce has engaged with culturally and linguistically diverse and refugee communities to build an understanding of the current needs and supports required.

## Priority 5 – Supporting female participants into employment

### What are our challenges and opportunities?

There are opportunities to engage with and support female participants to access employment opportunities aligned with local skill needs, including in traditionally male dominated industry sectors.

### How are we responding?

- We are working to build a Women's Networking Group to inspire and provide encouragement for women in returning or entering the workforce.
- We are collaborating with local governments to enact careers and employment jobs fairs within their communities' expos, ensuring ongoing support for increased female participation.
- We are working with male-dominated industries to increase women-led employment opportunities in the local community.

## Priority 6 – Supporting Indigenous Australians

### What are our challenges and opportunities?

There are opportunities to reduce the labour market disadvantage of Indigenous Australians in the region.

### How are we responding?

- We are connecting with employers to provide culturally appropriate local employment.
- We are identifying opportunities and creating skills development pathways aligned with growth economies to support Indigenous Australians' entrepreneurship.
- The Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce has engaged with Indigenous communities to build an understanding of the current needs and supports required.

## Want to know more?

- Contact: David Turnbull, Western Melbourne Employment Facilitator: [david.turnbull@employmentfacilitator.com.au](mailto:david.turnbull@employmentfacilitator.com.au)
- Visit: [Local Jobs](#) or [Workforce Australia](#)