

Local Jobs Plan

South Eastern Melbourne and Peninsula | Victoria | May 2026

Workforce Australia Local Jobs (Local Jobs) is a program that creates partnerships between business and communities to meet local workforce needs, thereby improving employment outcomes. Local Jobs operates in all 51 Employment Regions in Australia.

Local Jobs Overview

Local Jobs Plan

Each Employment Region has a Local Jobs Plan which outlines the labour market challenges in the region and the strategies to address these challenges.

Job Coordinators

Each Employment Region has a dedicated Job Coordinator who leverages existing resources, supports local labour markets through structural adjustments and retrenchments, and creates opportunities for collaboration between business and communities.

Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce

Each Employment Region has its own taskforce that meets regularly with the Job Coordinator to develop an understanding of challenges in the region and implement solutions. The taskforce is comprised of representatives from the region.

Local Jobs, Local People Grant

The Local Jobs, Local People grant funds activities that help people into ongoing employment or training. Activities must support local labour market needs.



Explore labour market insights for the [South Eastern Melbourne and Peninsula](#) Employment Region

Local labour market challenges

- The youth unemployment rate across the entire Employment Region has significantly increased in the past 12 months and is now much higher than the state average.
- Ongoing skills shortages in several key industries including:
 - the care sector in roles covering aged care, disability workers and child care,
 - construction and manufacturing apprenticeships across carpentry, roof tiling and metal fabrication,
 - truck driver roles, and
 - retail and hospitality, particularly in the Peninsula region.
- Integrating one of Australia's largest, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) workforces into the local job market, primarily in the South East area, requiring specific English language and employability skills training.
- Significant numbers of participants do not have driver's licences or access to vehicles. In outer areas of the region, public transport is either non-existent or too infrequent. Travel across the Employment Region is unmanageable without a driver's licence.

Local priorities

Priority 1 – Addressing youth unemployment

What are our challenges?

Youth unemployment has risen significantly across the whole region, with rates in the South East higher than the Peninsula, and both above the state average. In-demand industries such as health care and social assistance, retail, support services, manufacturing and construction offer opportunities for young people, as many roles are entry-level and require little experience.

How are we responding?

- Partnering with education providers and industry to create job readiness programs and industry pathways specifically designed to support the entry of youth, including BSL Thrive Hubs in Frankston, Frankston and Mornington Peninsula Employment Body initiative, Headspace and Headstart.
- Developing youth focused career pathway programs and running/supporting youth career events, forums and expos.
- Engaging with young people from Workforce Australia/Transition to Work providers and local business to co-design and pilot activities to tackle youth unemployment including organising guest speakers from industry, doing industry tours and work experience.

Priority 2 – Maximising existing employment and skills opportunities to create career pathways

What are our challenges?

The region's extensive network of employment, training, and community services presents both opportunity and complexity, with a high volume of programs operating across multiple systems. This creates a challenge in coordination, reducing duplication, and enabling participants to effectively navigate supports (particularly those from CALD and refugee backgrounds).

How are we responding?

- Working as part of the Settlement Leading Partners Network, to support local stakeholder service providers working with CALD clients requiring multi-agency support.

- Utilising networks to address sub-regional priorities and implement collaborative solutions, including employer groups such as South East Melbourne Manufacturers Alliance, Frankston Business Collective, South East Business Network and Greater South East Melbourne.
- Delivering annual large-scale career expos, attracting 400 to 600 attendees per event, providing direct engagement between participants and employers in response to high demand for accessible services.

Priority 3 – Local opportunities for local individuals

What are our challenges?

Despite strong employment growth within the region, a disconnect persists between local job opportunities and the local workforce, with many residents continuing to seek employment outside the region. Challenges including skills mismatch, limited awareness of local opportunities, and transport. As a result, local employers experience ongoing difficulty filling vacancies, while participants miss opportunities within their own communities, reducing the overall efficiency and sustainability of the regional labour market.

How are we responding?

- Promoting local opportunities through career expos and targeted engagement activities, connecting hundreds of participants annually to local employers.
- Supporting workforce alignment initiatives to address the gap between available jobs and participant preferences through Workforce Australia insights.
- Working with local education providers, including TAFE, Registered Training Organisations and Learn Local providers, to deliver vocational pathway and training programs within the region for easier accessibility.
- Collaborating with local councils and industry to strengthen place-based employment pathways, ensuring local jobs are filled by local people.

Priority 4 – Support for priority cohorts

What are our challenges?

The region faces a significant challenge due to the high number of people from priority cohorts who access Workforce Australia, including the highest proportion of CALD and refugee participants nationally, alongside high representation of young people and women. These groups often have challenges that overlap such as language, cultural differences, limited local work experience, and employer bias, which can restrict access to employment opportunities. This concentration of disadvantage requires more intensive, tailored support and coordinated service delivery to ensure equitable outcomes and prevent long-term labour market exclusion.

How are we responding?

- Leading the Settlement Leading Partners Network initiatives, such as the Settlement Processes and Services Guide and website, improving outcomes for the CALD/refugee cohort that represents the highest proportion of people accessing Workforce Australia in the region.
- Delivering specific, targeted programs such as the First Nations annual Start Your Deadly program, supporting culturally safe pathways into employment.
- Developing targeted initiatives that respond to the disproportionate representation of female participants, particularly in low participation industries such as manufacturing and construction.

Priority 5 – Reskilling and transition support

What are our challenges?

Economic pressures, industry restructuring, and localised disadvantage contribute to ongoing workforce transition challenges within the region. These factors contribute to challenges for individuals needing to reskill or re-enter the workforce, particularly where foundational skills, confidence, or access to training are limited. Without targeted, place-based interventions, these cohorts risk remaining disconnected from employment, while employers continue to face workforce shortages in key industries.

How are we responding?

- Developing targeted programs for people experiencing long-term unemployment in areas where disadvantage is concentrated such as Frankston North and Doveton.
- Providing immediate support to displaced workers through connections to assistance such as Chisholm Skills, local employers and Workforce Australia partners.
- Delivering employment events that provide immediate connection to jobs, addressing the gap between participants and available vacancies.

Want to know more?

- Contact: Sean Teer, South Eastern Melbourne and Peninsula Job Coordinator: sean.teer@mylocaljobsprogram.com.au
- Visit: [Local Jobs](#) or [Workforce Australia](#)