

Local Jobs Plan

Mid North Employment Region | SA | June 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

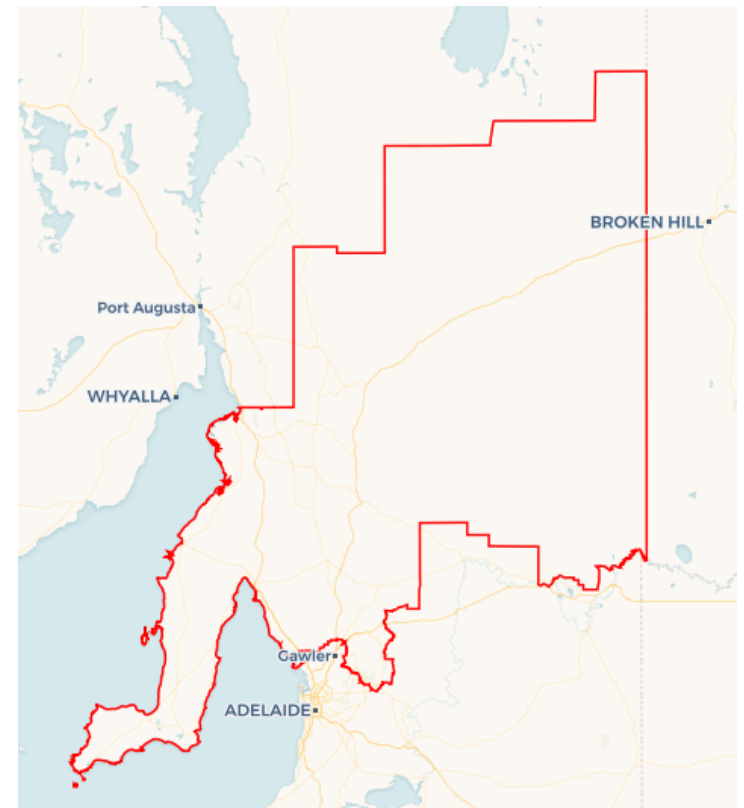
Each Employment Region has a dedicated Job Coordinator who leverages existing resources, supports local labour markets through structural adjustments and retrenchments, and creates opportunities for collaboration between business and communities.

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 [Mid North SA](#) Employment Region

Local labour market challenges

- Parts of the region face entrenched labour market and socio-economic challenges, including historically high unemployment levels, intergenerational unemployment, and jobless families.
- Need for improved access to private and public transport and support for individuals to gain a driver's licence.
- Low levels of VET uptake and completion and the need for locally based trainers and training providers aligned to industry skill needs.
- An older population profile and ageing workforce presents opportunities to explore how to attract and retain their skills to address workforce shortages.
- Significant investment pipeline in renewables, resources and construction and unmet demand in health, aged and disability care, child care, food production, hospitality, and retail.
- Untapped labour market potential due to high levels of youth unemployment, high occurrence of part-time and casual work and a significant number of people not in the labour force.

Local priorities

Priority 1 – Lead collaborative approaches that aim to address structural, systemic or entrenched labour market factors that impact regional workforce participation

What are our challenges?

Workforce responses have historically been reactive, with ongoing focus needed on partnerships, planning and long-term solutions to ensure local people have the opportunity to benefit from the region's economic opportunities. Structural challenges such as transport and driver licensing barriers, intergenerational unemployment, jobless families and broader social challenges continue to impact workforce participation. Strengthening collaboration across government, industry and community enables better coordination of effort, shared resources and place-based responses that support long-term workforce participation and regional prosperity.

How are we responding?

- Leadership through the Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce in identifying key strategic priorities, including intergenerational unemployment and jobless families, and transport and driver's licence.
- Fostering shared responsibility and leveraging both existing and new resources to enable more coordinated and effective regional responses including a focus on broader social impact, community-led action and place-based activity.
- Delivering intel and ideas to government and other key organisations to address structural challenges impacting local workforce, employment and skilling outcomes.

Key initiatives include working with partners to support Pirie Voices and hear from 1,000 voices to inform community-led, long-term change, being a regional lead with the North West Country region for the 'Using Transport in Regional Communities to Enable Workforce Participation in South Australia' project to explore strategic, scalable solutions to transport and drivers licence challenges, involvement in the Upper Spencer Gulf Workforce and Skills Advisory Group, and contributing to the Barossa Wellbeing Network and Alliance aimed at strengthening the collective effort for wellbeing.

Priority 2 – Maximise opportunities for local jobs to be filled by local job seekers, ensuring individuals are adequately skilled and supported to take up employment opportunities including traineeships and apprenticeships

What are our challenges?

Parts of the region experience entrenched unemployment and high levels of socio-economic disadvantage. Challenges faced by individuals include digital literacy, work readiness, fitness for work, transport, housing and child care access. Many people also require broader non-vocational supports and confidence building before they are ready to engage with employment or training opportunities.

How are we responding?

- Ensuring local employment initiatives include work readiness skills such as life skills, self-development, work hardening and work exposure activities.
- Supporting individuals to tap into the 'hidden' jobs market, including increasing awareness of local employers, job opportunities and career pathways.
- Supporting individuals to identify their qualities and transferrable skills and sell themselves to employers.
- Focussing on non-vocational challenges to employment such as drug and alcohol, fitness for work, transport and childcare access.
- Engaging with people that are not in the labour market and untapped labour potential within the region.
- Delivering initiatives that encourage and motivate employers to prioritise employment of local people.

Key initiatives include the Port Pirie Work Hardening Project, partnering with Uni Hub Spencer Gulf to deliver annual Career Roadshows in Port Pirie and Kadina, partnering with the Adelaide North region to deliver the Gawler and Barossa Job Expo, delivering Essential Day events in smaller communities across the Mid North, and supporting the development and promotion of pre-employment and adult community education programs.

Priority 3 – Focus on industry-led partnerships to address local workforce requirements in key priority sectors such as the care sector, early childhood, resources and infrastructure as well as industries experiencing growth, structural adjustment or local shortages

What are our challenges?

Key regional industries are experiencing workforce shortages and increasing demand for skilled workers. The region is experiencing industry transition and structural adjustment, and opportunities associated with new investment and major projects. Strong industry partnerships are essential to better understand workforce needs, strengthen workforce planning, and ensure training and employment pathways are aligned with industry demand.

How are we responding?

- Partnering with regional bodies such as Regional Development Australia, local government and industry to plan for the workforce needs of current and emerging industries and major projects, as well as transitioning sectors and structural adjustment events to maximise long-term benefits for the region and local employment outcomes.
- Identifying current and emerging occupations and skills in demand, to better align local training, education and employment initiatives with industry needs.
- Supporting industry to articulate workforce needs and inform training pathways, helping ensure education and training offerings align with current and future workforce demand, including the use of technology and innovation.
- Strengthening connections between industry, training providers and employment services to improve coordination and support clearer pathways into priority sectors.
- Sharing workforce intelligence and regional insights with industry, training organisations and government to support more informed workforce planning and investment.

Key initiatives include partnering with organisations in the Upper Spencer Gulf to deliver and action outcomes from the annual Upper Spencer Gulf Workforce Summit, progressing actions from the 2025 Regional Care Sector Workforce Summit, supporting the development of more early childhood workers in the Yorke Peninsula, and engaging with local business groups including Business Port Pirie and Tactic.

Priority 4 – Strengthen workforce participation and unlock untapped potential among young people, mature age people, First Nations people and people with disability

What are our challenges?

The Mid North covers 13 local government regions, from larger centres to many small and isolated communities, and different cohorts face unique challenges in accessing employment. Young people, mature age people, First Nations people, and people with disability often have the skills and aspirations to work but may encounter barriers such as limited transport, access to training, housing, digital skills gaps, or a lack of flexible and inclusive employment. The region has significant opportunity to strengthen workforce participation by better supporting cohorts who are underrepresented in employment and skills outcomes.

How are we responding?

- Strengthening pathways from education and training into meaningful employment, including structured pre-employment programs and career guidance.
- Providing non-vocational supports that build confidence, life skills and employability, with a focus on longer-term engagement and sustainable workforce participation.
- Developing flexible and inclusive employment initiatives that harness the skills and experience of mature age people and underrepresented cohorts.
- Engaging young people and community members in co-designing solutions that reflect their aspirations and local workforce needs.
- Supporting businesses and community organisations to create opportunities that are tailored to the needs of underrepresented cohorts.

Key initiatives include Lifestyle Jobs Yorke Peninsula as a platform to unlock the hidden workforce potential of older people in the Yorke Peninsula, connecting with mature age people through monthly coffee and chat sessions, being involved in interagency and community service networks, and identifying themes from key cohorts via Pirie Voices for action.

Priority 5 – Support regional capability development to increase the ability for the Mid North to respond to current and emerging employment, skills and workforce needs

What are our challenges?

The Mid North has many small organisations, community groups and businesses playing an important role in supporting workforce participation, training and employment outcomes yet are often limited by resources and capacity, making it difficult to engage with workforce initiatives, access government programs or respond to emerging opportunities. Strengthening regional capability will build stronger networks, improve coordination, and support locally led solutions.

How are we responding?

- Investing in regionally based organisations with a demonstrated commitment to the region, to develop their organisational and workforce capabilities.
- Developing more qualified trainers to increase access to quality, industry-relevant training, including through innovative partnerships with industry.
- Maximising the use of local facilities and identifying gaps in local training or enabling infrastructure.
- Supporting organisations to understand and access Government programs, services, and funding.
- Supporting small organisations with limited management and human resource capability, to maximise their involvement in local workforce initiatives and solutions.

Key initiatives include facilitating two Jobs and Skills Networks in partnership with Regional Development Australia engaging over 500 members and delivering quarterly network meetings, local business workshops and events, monthly Local Jobs Program Updates distributed to regional stakeholders, Employment Service Providers meetings, active social media promotion, training and an events calendar.

Want to know more?

- Contact Lisa Brock, Mid North Job Coordinator at lisa@usgemployment.com.au
- Visit [Local Jobs](#) or [Workforce Australia](#)