

Local Jobs Plan

Murray Riverina Employment Region | NSW | January 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 [Murray Riverina](#) Employment Region

Local labour market challenges in the region

- Multiple major projects across the region are competing for workers in high demand sectors, including manufacturing, freight and logistics, construction, renewable energy, and health.
- Community service organisations—particularly aged care, disability services, and the early childhood sector—continue to experience workforce shortages as demand for skilled workers increases. Strategic workforce planning for major infrastructure projects must be effectively translated to the local level to enable targeted upskilling and ensure the workforce is prepared to meet future demand.
- Many individuals accessing Workforce Australia Employment Services have experienced long-term unemployment, highlighting the importance of ongoing, coordinated support to assist their re-entry into employment.
- Strong infrastructure growth has increased pressure on local accommodation, highlighting the need for innovative housing solutions. With multiple major projects underway and a competitive rental market, expanding and diversifying housing options—including short-term and transitional accommodation—is increasingly critical.
- Transport remains a significant barrier to workforce participation due to the limited affordability of professional driver training for individuals who are not eligible for subsidised support, as well as licence loss restrictions that cannot be addressed through Work Development Orders.

Local priorities

Priority 1 – Boost local workforce and apprenticeships

What are our challenges?

The region needs to strengthen and expand pathways into local employment and training, particularly for individuals experiencing multiple and intersecting barriers to workforce participation. These barriers include skills gaps, mental health challenges, limited transport access, and housing instability, all of which can impede an individual's ability to engage in education, training, and sustained employment.

At the same time, the region is experiencing a growing number of employment opportunities generated by major infrastructure and renewable energy projects. Ensuring local jobseekers are well positioned to access these opportunities requires a coordinated and proactive approach that aligns workforce capability with current and future labour demand.

How are we responding?

- **Promoting local apprenticeships and incentives:** We are working closely with business chambers, peak bodies, industry groups, and government communication channels to raise awareness of local apprenticeship opportunities and available employer and employee incentives. This includes the distribution of targeted information through newsletters, local business networks, and direct engagement with employers to encourage increased uptake of apprenticeships and traineeships across the region.
- **Creating pathways through collaborative partnerships:** In partnership with industry, NSW Government, local councils, and education and training providers, we are developing clear, practical, and accessible pathways into apprenticeships, traineeships, and entry-level employment. This approach includes promoting career expos, coordinating targeted information sessions, and encouraging direct employer engagement at events. We are also supporting initiatives that promote workforce diversity, including programs aimed at increasing the participation of women in traditionally male dominated industries.
- **Reducing barriers to participation:** We are connecting jobseekers with existing support services that address common barriers to workforce participation, including mental health challenges, transport limitations, and housing instability. By working collaboratively with community organisations and local service providers, we help ensure individuals receive appropriate wraparound support to enable their engagement in training and employment opportunities.

- **Aligning with regional labour demand:** We are actively engaging with major infrastructure and renewable energy projects across the region to identify current and emerging workforce needs. This includes collaborating with project managers and training providers to ensure local people have access to relevant pre-employment programs, targeted upskilling opportunities, and clear pathways into future jobs aligned with regional demand.

Priority 2 – Create employment pathways into growth industries

What are our challenges?

There is a need to strengthen employment and training pathways to develop a job ready workforce capable of meeting both current and future labour demands across key growth sectors. These sectors include aged care, early childhood education and care, disability services, construction, manufacturing, transport and logistics, and renewable energy.

How are we responding?

- **Improving access to jobs and training:** We are working with local businesses in manufacturing, construction, and renewable energy to improve visibility and accessibility of employment and training opportunities. This includes developing practical tools and resources that make job vacancies, training pathways, and career opportunities easier for jobseekers to identify and navigate. We also support preemployment programs that provide participants with foundational skills and direct pathways into employment for eligible participants.
- **Aligning training with workforce needs:** We are partnering with employers and education and training providers to ensure local training delivery aligns with current and emerging industry demand. This includes supporting courses that respond directly to employer needs and exploring flexible training models that accommodate different learning styles, life circumstances, and workforce entry points.
- **Driving collaboration through the Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce:** We have established a dedicated working group under the Taskforce to focus on creating employment pathways into high-growth industries. The working group brings together employers, training providers, government representatives, and other key stakeholders to drive targeted, region-specific solutions that address workforce challenges and support sustainable employment outcomes across the region.

Priority 3 – Support migrants and refugees into training and employment

What are our challenges?

There is a need to build clearer and more accessible pathways to employment and training opportunities for migrants and refugees across the Employment Region, while providing integrated and sustainable supports over the longer term. Migrants and refugees may face a range of barriers to workforce participation, including language and communication challenges, cultural differences, limited local work experience, and difficulties with skills, qualification recognition, and understanding local labour market pathways. Addressing these challenges requires a coordinated, place-based approach that supports individuals to successfully engage in training and transition into sustainable employment.

How are we responding?

- **Building clearer employment pathways:** We are working in partnership with community leaders, employment services, and education and training providers to better understand the barriers faced by migrants and refugees, and to co-design practical and culturally appropriate pathways into local jobs and training. This includes identifying opportunities to address cultural considerations, language and communication needs and qualification recognition issues, enabling tailored support that improves employment and training outcomes.
- **Strengthening communication and connections:** We are strengthening links between employers, community representatives, service providers, and training organisations to improve coordination and information sharing. By communicating relevant job opportunities, training pathways, and labour market information clearly and promptly, we ensure migrant and refugee communities are informed of region-wide employment opportunities and understand how to access available supports.
- **Driving targeted action through a working group:** We have established a dedicated working group under the Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce to focus on improving employment outcomes for migrants and refugees. The group brings stakeholders together to align efforts, share insights, and implement strategies that support long-term workforce participation.

Priority 4 – Create opportunities for First Nations peoples

What are our challenges?

There is a need to ensure employment and training opportunities for First Nations peoples are codesigned and supported through culturally appropriate, placed based approaches that are localised to Traditional Aboriginal Lands. Achieving sustainable employment outcomes requires integrated, longer-term supports that recognise cultural connections, community priorities, and the diverse circumstances of First Nations peoples.

How are we responding?

- **Strengthening access to local opportunities:** We are building clearer and more coordinated pathways to employment and training for First Nations peoples by connecting individuals with significant, upcoming employment projects and aligning these with relevant training pathways.
- **Aligning workforce and training needs:** We are collaborating with businesses and training providers to ensure current and future workforce demands are matched with accessible, culturally appropriate training and employment options.
- **Embedding mentoring and tailored support:** We are partnering with established programs that provide culturally appropriate mentoring and wraparound supports, assisting First Nations peoples to successfully transition into training and employment and to remain engaged over the longer term.
- **Building business capacity:** We are strengthening relationships with First Nations stakeholders and organisations to promote initiatives that build employer capability and expand culturally safe employment opportunities.
- **Driving outcomes through procurement policy:** We are promoting the use of Commonwealth and NSW Government social procurement targets to encourage high-value infrastructure and service projects to incorporate meaningful employment and training opportunities.

Want to know more?

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- Visit [Local Jobs](#) or [Workforce Australia](#)