

Local Jobs Plan

Murray Riverina Employment Region | NSW | July 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.



Local labour market challenges

- Multiple major projects are competing for workers across high demand sectors, including manufacturing, freight and logistics, construction, renewable energy and health.
- Workforce shortages continue across community services, particularly aged care, disability support and early childhood education as demand for skilled workers increase. Targeted local workforce planning and upskilling are needed to meet growing demand and support future workforce requirements.
- Many people accessing Workforce Australia Employment Services have experienced long term unemployment and require coordinated support to successfully re-enter the workforce.
- Strong infrastructure growth is increasing pressure on housing availability and affordability. Highlighting the need for more diverse accommodation options, including short term and transitional housing.
- Transport remains a significant barrier to workforce participation, due to the limited affordability and availability of professional driver training for individuals not eligible for subsidised support and license loss restrictions, limiting access to employment opportunities.

Local priorities

Priority 1 – Boost local workforce and apprenticeships

What are our challenges?

The region needs stronger pathways into employment and training, particularly for people facing multiple barriers such as, skills gaps, mental health challenges, housing instability and limited transport access. At the same time, major projects are creating significant employment opportunities that require a skilled local workforce.

How are we responding?

- **Promoting local apprenticeships, traineeships and available incentives:** We work with business chambers, industry groups, peak bodies and government partners to raise awareness of apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities and associated incentives. This includes targeted communications, employer engagement and promotion through local business networks.
- **Creating pathways through collaborative partnerships:** We partner with industry, government, councils and training providers to strengthen pathways into apprenticeships, traineeships and entry level employment. This includes supporting career expos, industry information sessions and initiatives that increase workforce diversity, including the participation of women in traditionally male dominated industries.
- **Reducing barriers to participation:** We connect jobseekers with support services that address barriers to workforce participation, including mental health, transport and housing challenges. Through collaboration with community organisations and service providers, we support access to the wraparound services needed to engage in training and employment.
- **Aligning with regional labour demand:** We actively engage with major infrastructure and renewable energy projects to identify current and future workforce needs, supporting access to pre-employment programs, targeted skills development and clear pathways into jobs aligned with regional demand.

Priority 2 – Create employment pathways into growth industries

What are our challenges?

The region needs to strengthen employment and training pathways to build a job ready workforce to meet demand in priority sectors including aged care, disability services, early childhood education, construction, manufacturing, transport and logistics, and renewable energy.

How are we responding?

- **Improving access to jobs and training:** We work with employers in manufacturing, construction and renewable energy to increase awareness of employment and training opportunities. This includes promoting clear information on jobs, training pathways and careers, alongside supporting pre-employment programs that build foundational skills and pathways into employment.
- **Aligning training with workforce needs:** We partner with employers and training providers to ensure training aligns with current and emerging industry demand. This includes supporting industry led training and exploring flexible delivery models that meet the needs of diverse learners and workforce entrants.
- **Driving collaboration through the Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce:** Through a dedicated Taskforce working group, we bring together employers, training providers, government and key stakeholders to develop coordinated, region-specific solutions that strengthen workforce pathways and support sustainable employment outcomes.

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 often face a range of barriers including language and communication challenges, limited local work experience, qualification recognition issues and unfamiliarity with local employment pathways.

How are we responding?

- **Building clearer employment pathways:** We work with community leaders, employment services and training providers to co design culturally appropriate pathways into employment and training for migrants and refugees. This includes understanding cultural, language, communication, and qualification recognition barriers to improve training and employment outcomes.
- **Strengthening communication and connections:** We are encouraging collaboration between employers, community organisations, service providers and training organisations to improve information sharing and ensure migrant and refugee communities can access employment, training and support opportunities.
- **Driving targeted action through a working group:** Through a dedicated Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce working group, we bring stakeholders together to coordinate efforts, share insights and implement strategies that support long-term workforce participation.

Priority 4 – Create opportunities for First Nations

What are our challenges?

Employment and training initiatives must be locally led, culturally appropriate and tailored to the needs and aspirations of First Nations communities to achieve sustainable outcomes.

How are we responding?

- **Strengthening access to local opportunities:** We are building clearer pathways to employment and training for First Nations peoples by connecting individuals with significant, upcoming employment opportunities and aligning with relevant training pathways.
- **Aligning workforce and training needs:** We collaborate with employers and training providers to ensure current and future workforce demand is matched with accessible and culturally appropriate training and employment opportunities.
- **Embedding mentoring and tailored support:** We are partnering with programs that provide culturally appropriate mentoring and wraparound supports that help First Nations peoples transition into training and employment and remain engaged over the longer term.
- **Building business capacity:** We are strengthening partnerships with First Nations organisations and stakeholders to promote initiatives that build employer capability and expand culturally safe workplaces.
- **Driving outcomes through procurement policy:** We promote Commonwealth and NSW Government social procurement targets to encourage major projects to deliver meaningful employment and training opportunities for First Nations peoples.

Priority 5 – Transport and driver licences

What are our challenges?

Transport disadvantage continues to limit access to employment, training and education, particularly for young people, disadvantaged jobseekers and people living in areas with limited public transport. Existing programs such as Driver Licensing Access programs, are valuable but administration is fragmented and inconsistent across the region.

How are we responding?

- **Driving cross regional collaboration:** Through the Work Transit Alliance, we partner with the Illawarra South Coast and Capital Region Local Jobs Programs to coordinate transport initiatives, advocate for system level change, share evidence and strengthen regional collaboration. A cross regional Advisory Group has been implemented to provide the Work Transit Alliance with strategic leadership and to support a coordinated response to transport barriers.
- **Strengthening local transport solutions:** We collaborate with driver mentoring and licensing programs, employers, community organisations and transport operators to improve access to transport supports and trial practical solutions that connect people with employment and training opportunities.
- **Using evidence to drive action:** We use data, research, and stakeholder insights to identify transport gaps, and design, pilot, and evaluate targeted transport responses.

Want to know more?

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