



Australian Government

# Local Jobs Program

The Local Jobs Program supports tailored approaches to accelerate reskilling, upskilling and employment pathways in 51 Employment Regions, supporting Australia's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Local Jobs Program

COVID-19 has had an unprecedented impact on the Australian labour market. Together with longer term economic trends that are changing skill requirements in many jobs and occupations, there is urgency in assisting job seekers to navigate this change.

Through the Local Jobs Program, Employment Facilitators work with employers and other key local stakeholders to develop employment solutions at a local level, and support Australians back into work across 51 regions in Australia.

Recognising the importance of local knowledge in getting people back into jobs quickly, the Local Jobs Program includes the following key elements in each region:

- a local Employment Facilitator
- a Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce
- a Local Jobs Plan
- a Local Recovery Fund to support small scale activities in each region
- access to the National Priority Funding Pool.

## Employment Facilitators

Employment Facilitators are dedicated individuals who work to connect local job seekers in specific regions with training, job opportunities and other support.

As part of their role, Employment Facilitators chair Local Jobs and Skills Taskforces, and work with local stakeholders including employers, employment services providers, and training organisations to drive the development of a Local Jobs Plan.

Facilitators also support local stakeholders to create targeted activities that meet the priorities of the plan.

## Local Jobs and Skills Taskforces

Local taskforces will identify key employment priorities, local labour needs and design potential solutions.

Taskforces consist of representatives from local businesses, employment services providers, training providers, and other key stakeholders. The Taskforces are chaired by the Employment Facilitator.

Taskforces develop and update a Local Jobs Plan for their respective region that identifies key employment and training priorities and provides a framework for driving employment outcomes in the context of the local labour market. The process has been supported through information provided by the National Skills Commission and the National Careers Institute. Plans detail strategies to support job seekers in meeting local employers' requirements.

For example, if a region has an aging demographic, and the Taskforce identified addressing youth unemployment as a regional priority, then the Local Jobs Plan could include strategies to address this, specifically training young people to undertake caregiver roles.

Facilitators could then work with employers, employment services providers and training organisations to support them to design activities, including training, that allows them to take advantage of local job opportunities.

### **Local Recovery Funds**

A Local Recovery Fund is available in each region for local stakeholders to develop activities in line with the employment needs of their region, as identified by their Taskforce and Local Jobs Plan.

### **Program duration**

The program will run to 30 June 2025.

## **Key Questions and Answers**

### ***How were regions selected?***

Of the existing 25 Local Jobs Program Employment Regions, 11 already had an Employment Facilitator on the ground. Another 14 regions were selected through analysis by the National Skills Commission, identifying the regions that were most impacted by COVID-19 and/or were experiencing ongoing disadvantage.

On 1 July 2021, the Program was expanded to the remaining 26 Employment Regions, to cover all 51 Employment Regions in Australia.

### ***How can organisations apply for funding?***

Once a region's employment priorities have been identified in the Local Jobs Plan, applicants can refer to the program's website for information on how to lodge a proposal.

The Department of Education, Skills and Employment will evaluate each proposal against the published evaluation criteria. Proposals under this initiative are also considered by the relevant Taskforce prior to their submission. Stakeholders can apply for funding between \$10,000 and \$200,000 for eligible activities.

All activity proposals must nominate an eligible employment services provider as an activity partner. A list of providers can be found on the department's website. The local Employment Facilitator and Taskforce will collaborate and work proactively with local employment service providers to ensure the success of each activity.

### ***What types of activities could be developed?***

Some examples of activities that could be developed to support people into employment include training and re-skilling opportunities; tailored non-accredited training; professional development; job seeker mentoring; work experience; employment pathway and internship programs.

For example, a Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce may use information from the National Skills Commission to identify local growth industries such as construction, healthcare, and professional and scientific services.

In this case, the Employment Facilitator could work with employers, employment services providers and training providers to help develop short courses for job seekers in the region to move into the jobs identified in these growth industries.

A Taskforce could also work with local councils and employers to identify specific upcoming infrastructure projects so that job seekers can undertake training activities to allow them to participate directly in construction and other activities associated with the infrastructure projects.

In developing these activities, the Employment Facilitator will provide support through a coordinated approach so existing programs are leveraged, and duplication is minimised.

***Who can participate in these activities?***

Job seekers registered with a jobactive, ParentsNext, Transition to Work, or New Employment Services Trial provider will be eligible for the program.

***Who is my region's Employment Facilitator?***

A list of Employment Facilitators can be found at [dese.gov.au/local-jobs-program](https://dese.gov.au/local-jobs-program).

***Where can I find further information?***

Further information on the Local Jobs Program is available at [dese.gov.au/local-jobs-program](https://dese.gov.au/local-jobs-program).

## Regions

All 51 Employment Regions are included in the Local Jobs Program.

<b>Queensland</b>	<b>New South Wales</b>
Brisbane South East *	Capital Region *
Cairns	Central West *
Darling Downs *	Far West Orana (includes Broken Hill) *
Fitzroy *	Hunter
Gold Coast	Illawarra South Coast
Mackay *	Mid North Coast
Somerset *	Murray Riverina *
Townsville (includes Mt Isa)	New England and North West
Wide Bay and Sunshine Coast	North Coast
Wivenhoe	Sydney East Metro *
<b>Victoria</b>	Sydney Greater West
Ballarat *	Sydney North and West *
Barwon *	Sydney South West
Bendigo *	<b>South Australia</b>
Gippsland	Adelaide North
Goulburn/Murray *	Adelaide South *
Inner Metropolitan Melbourne	Mid North SA *
North Eastern Melbourne *	Murray and South East
North Western Melbourne	North West Country
South Coast of Victoria *	<b>Western Australia</b>
South Eastern Melbourne and Peninsula	Broome *
Western Melbourne	Esperance *
Wimmera Mallee *	Geraldton *
<b>Tasmania</b>	Great Southern – Wheatbelt *
Hobart and Southern Tasmania	Kalgoorlie *
North and North Western Tasmania	Perth – North *
<b>Northern Territory</b>	Perth – South
Darwin (includes Alice Springs)	South West WA

\* Indicates the 26 Employment Regions included in the expansion of the Local Jobs Program.