



An Australian Government Initiative



ABN: 898 1669 3886

1 Colman Terrace (PO Box 1171)  
STRATHALBYN, SA, 5255

P: 08 8536 9200

E: [info@rdahc.com.au](mailto:info@rdahc.com.au)

W: [www.rdahc.com.au](http://www.rdahc.com.au)

3 April 2023

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Regional Workforce Program Draws to Close

Regional Development Australia Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island (RDA AHFKI) has expressed disappointment over the discontinuation of the Regional Workforce Program in their region. The closure of this initiative is due to funding provided by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA) ceasing on June 30, 2022.

Severe labour shortages have been a significant issue for many businesses in the region, which had prompted the funding of a workforce program by PIRSA. The aim of the program is to connect job seekers with businesses and address the skills shortage with training sessions and forums. Richard Scollin, RDA AHFKI Workforce Development Manager, played a crucial role in facilitating these connections and organising sessions, with successful outcomes across key industry groups in the region such as aged care and hospitality, including:

- ✓ The Regional Leadership Program: Inspired Leadership 2023, to be delivered by Newday Leadership.
- ✓ Partnering with Boosting Local Care Workforce Program and the Southern Adelaide Local Jobs Program to host an employment workshop for providers in the care sector.
- ✓ 2 pre-employment programs that helped 18 job seekers to gain entry level skills for work in the hospitality sector.
- ✓ The Study Adelaide tour of the region and Demystifying Migration Webinar to help industry recognise the opportunities to source skilled workers in the hospitality/tourism sector.
- ✓ Working with the Fleurieu Community Co-operative around the workforce needs of the Strathalbyn Abattoir.

*Cont'd over.....*



An Initiative of  
**Government of  
South Australia**

Adelaide Hills Council • Mount Barker District Council • Alexandrina Council • City of Victor Harbor • Yankalilla District Council  
Kangaroo Island Council

Despite the success of the workforce program, current economic conditions mean local businesses are still finding it extremely difficult to attract and retain suitable staff. The discontinuation of the program in the Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island is a significant setback for businesses; it was an important resource, and its absence will be deeply felt.

Damien Cook, RDA AHFKI CEO, said: “We believe we still have a real issue in this area and, without adequate support, the situation is unlikely to improve. Local businesses are finding it extremely difficult to attract and retain suitable staff – there is now a vacuum in this space and businesses have nowhere to turn for assistance.”

RDA AHFKI have been a leading advocate for the region and remain committed to working with local businesses and communities to create solutions to this challenge. They are urging the State Government to provide adequate funding and support to address the critical workforce shortage in the region.

---

**Report Contact:**

**Damien Cooke**

CEO

Regional Development Australia Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu & Kangaroo Island

M: 0411 140 735

E: [damienc@rdahc.com.au](mailto:damienc@rdahc.com.au)

W: [rdahc.com.au](http://rdahc.com.au)

*END*

