



Local Jobs Program

The Local Jobs Program focusses on upskilling, reskilling and establishing employment pathways for those looking to return to work following COVID-19.

Local Jobs Program

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

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

The program focuses on reskilling, upskilling and employment pathways to assist people to move back into jobs as the economy recovers. Recognising the importance of local knowledge in getting people back into jobs quickly, the Australian Government's Local Jobs Program will:

- put in place local Employment Facilitators
- create Local Jobs and Skills Taskforces and
- provide Local Recovery Funds to support small scale projects, in 25 employment regions across Australia.

Employment Facilitators

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

As part of their role Employment Facilitators will chair Local Jobs and Skills Taskforces across 25 regions and work with local stakeholders including employers, employment services providers and training organisations to drive the development of a Local Jobs Plan.

These 25 Facilitators will also support local stakeholders to create targeted projects that meet the priorities of the plan. Facilitators will work with organisations that apply for funding through the Local Recovery Funds to ensure employment opportunities are maximised.

Local Jobs and Skills Taskforces

Local taskforces will identify key employment priorities, local labour needs and design potential solutions. This will be supported through information provided by the National Skills Commission and the National Careers Institute.

Taskforces will consist of local business, employment services and training providers and other key stakeholders. The Taskforces will be chaired by the Employment Facilitator.

The taskforces will develop a Local Jobs Plan, which identifies the region's priorities and opportunities. The Plan will include solutions 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, including training young people to undertake caregiver activities.

Facilitators could then work with employers, employment services providers and training organisations to support them to design projects that allow young people to access training to move into these available jobs.

Local Recovery Funds

A Local Recovery Fund will be available in each region for local stakeholders to develop projects 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 2022.

Questions and Answers

How were regions selected?

The program will operate in 25 Employment Regions.

Eleven regions already had Employment Facilitators on the ground and the remaining 14 regions were selected based on an analysis by the National Skills Commission of regions that were the most impacted by COVID-19 and were experiencing ongoing disadvantage.

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 will also be considered by the relevant Taskforce prior to their submission.

To be eligible for funding, each project must be valued between \$10,000 and \$200,000.

All project submissions must nominate an eligible Employment Services Provider as a project 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 project.

What types of projects could be developed?

Some examples of projects that could be developed to bring people into employment include training and re-skilling opportunities, tailored non-accredited training or professional development projects, job seeker mentoring, and employment pathway and internship programs.

For example, a Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce may use information from the National Skills Commission to identify 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 develop short courses for job seekers in the region to move into the jobs identified in these growth industries.

Another example would be where a Taskforce works with local councils and employers to identify specific upcoming infrastructure projects so that job seekers can undertake specific training activities to allow them to participate directly in construction and other

activities associated with the infrastructure projects.

In developing these activities the Taskforce will provide support through a coordinated approach so existing programs are leveraged and on the ground duplication is minimised.

Who can participate in these activities?

Job seekers 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 www.dese.gov.au/local-jobs-program.

In some regions, Department of Education, Skills and Employment staff will be interim Employment Facilitators until the procurement process is finalised.

Where can I find further information?

Further information about the Local Jobs Program is available at www.dese.gov.au/local-jobs-program

Region

The employment regions included in this program are listed below.

State	Employment Region
New South Wales	Illawarra South Coast * Hunter * New England and North West * Mid North Coast North Coast Sydney Greater West Sydney South West
Queensland	Cairns* Wide Bay and Sunshine Coast* Townsville Wivenhoe Gold Coast
Tasmania	North and North Western Tasmania* Hobart and Southern Tasmania
Victoria	Gippsland* Western Melbourne* Inner Metropolitan Melbourne North Western Melbourne South Eastern Melbourne and Peninsula
South Australia	Murray and South East* North West Country* Adelaide North
Western Australia	Perth South* South West WA
Northern Territory	Darwin and Alice Springs

* These 11 Employment Regions already have an Employment Facilitator. The role of these existing facilitators will be expanded to include oversight of the Local Jobs Program.