

Meeting Summary Communique

DEWR Local Jobs Program presented by DEWR (Lyzette and Jamie)

- Place-based program ensuring local labour markets work in partnership with local leaders and communities and responding to changing needs of the labour market. Until June 2025.
- Supports tailored approaches to meet local workforce needs
- Three different levels/types of funding are available;
 - Local Initiative Fund - small employment activities and community initiatives. Flexible.
 - Local Recovery Fund
 - National Priority Fund - six priorities including support for CaLD women through tailored self-employment; young people through social enterprises; mature age people connect to jobs; regional resilience in response to Net Zero transition; jobs to align with skills of people seeking work; and supporting First Nations peoples in employment options. Funding between \$200,000 to \$1 million through the procurement process. Not exclusive to Workforce Australia participants.
- Employment Facilitators (EF) in 51 Employment Regions. EFs have a more collaborative focus to connect with employers, organisations and peak bodies to challenge and support hiring processes to attract and retain workers. Their work extends beyond Workforce Australia.

<https://www.dewr.gov.au/local-jobs>

<https://www.dewr.gov.au/local-jobs/employment-facilitators>

- Link includes interactive map with 51 employment regions and details of the local Employment Facilitator

Job Expo – Sydney Greater West EF, CaLD and Migrant Employment Working Group and Employment Accelerator

- DEWR supported service providers to connect and prepare clients with employers.
- The event (with SSI support) brought together local employers, support services (TAFE, ACU, Services Australia, Programs in Workforce Australia), community organisations, interpreter services and 200+ attendees (160 unemployed for more than 12 months).
 - Most attendees had work experience and qualifications, and some were highly skilled (i.e., doctors, and engineers).
- Event registration was made public but attendees who were with Workforce Australia were able to get PBAS for participation.
- Upcoming events
 - 14 March: SGW CaLD and Migrant Employment Working Group and Salvation Army Employment Plus, Parramatta NSW
 - 26 March: SGW CaLD and Migrant Employment Working Group and Blacktown City Council, Blacktown

DISCUSSION: Skills Recognition

- Skilled doctors, engineers, accountants, nurses, social workers etc finding hard to get qualifications and experience recognised or internship to demonstrate skills.
 - DEWR (through EFs) can support employers (with capacity) to assess career pathways and hiring practices to better get skilled workers towards working at a level that matches their qualifications and experience.
- Qualification recognition processes for medical doctors are costly – is DEWR working with AMA? Lyzette (DWER) taking question on notice, noting Employer Liaison Officers (DEWR) may be working in this area.

DISCUSSION: Advocacy around English-language requirement testing for workers

- SETS provider example of a successful partnership with a university for education and qualifications for refugee nurses.
- Language tests like the PTE (nurses) have potential AI bias on accents. Language tests in general (e.g. IELTS for social workers) continue to be a major barrier for people with functional English, to get qualified and working with their skills.
- Potential opportunity for Community of Practice communications to inform policies regarding English-language testing and recognition of the barriers that it creates.

Subgroup Outcomes:

- Pre-work employment checklist
- Superannuation one-pager

Attendees (25 SETS Staff / 23 SETS Providers):

Nick Ross (Social Policy Group - SETSCoP Secretariat)

Chai Oonnakat (Social Policy Group – SETSCoP)

Lyzette (DEWR)

Jamie (DEWR)

Alessandru (MRC Tas, TAS)

Carla (Multicultural Australia, QLD)

Deborah (Multicultural Futures, WA)

Geoff (Australian Refugee Association, SA)

Hiyah (Whittlesea CC, VIC)

Inas (Arabic Welfare, VIC)

Jacqui (MercyCare, WA)

Jude (Whittlesea CC, VIC)

Julia (GSMS Albany, WA)

Kholud (AMWCHR, VIC)

Kim (Jesuit Social Services, VIC)

Lauren (CatholicCare TRAMS, QLD)

Linda (Nambour CC, QLD)

Maesie (Wyndham CEC, VIC)

Maggie (Bundaberg Neighbourhood Centre, QLD)

Marina (SMRC, VIC)

Ruth (Multicultural Australia, QLD)

Samara (SSI, QLD)

Sana (SECL, VIC)

Sandra (Chaldean League, NSW)

Sawm (MIC East VIC)

Sky (SSI, NSW)

Skye (North Coast Settlement Services, NSW)

Zac (SSI, QLD)

Zoraida (CMY, VIC)