

2017-18 INITIAL RESPONSES TO REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT



Far North

Jobs & Skills for Regional SA

In response to the [Jobs and Skills for Regional SA](#) engagement project, the Government of South Australia is investing an additional \$158,000 in new skills, training and employment projects in the Far North region in 2017-18.

In 2017, the State Government undertook comprehensive engagement with the community to better understand the skills, training and employment needs of regions and to collaborate on solutions. The initiatives below have been developed in direct response to what stakeholders said during the engagement process, complemented by available data.

Work-readiness and foundation skills

Through the engagement process, you said:

- pre-employment assistance is needed to provide work-readiness and foundation skills for jobseekers
- the region needs support for jobseekers experiencing intergenerational or long-term unemployment to adjust to the world of work
- the region would benefit from Adult Community Education (ACE) projects to help jobseekers become work-ready and provide support for early school leavers and jobseekers with low levels of literacy and numeracy.

What the data says:

31.8%



The ABS Survey of Education and Work shows that **31.8 per cent of unemployed people** in the South Australia Outback region, which includes the Far North, **are long-term unemployed** (i.e. looking for work for more than 52 weeks).

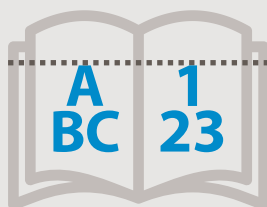
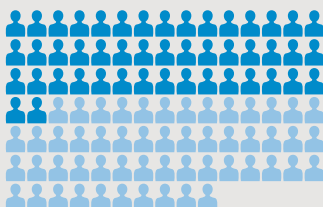


9.1%
UNEMPLOYMENT

53.3%



The 2016 ABS Census for the Far North showed an **unemployment rate of 9.1 per cent**. The Census also showed that **53.3 per cent of working age unemployed people have low levels of educational attainment**. Of this cohort, around 48.2 per cent are not studying. This is the highest of all non-metropolitan South Australian State Government regions.



The 2012 program for the international assessment of adult competencies revealed that nearly half of South Australians (**47 per cent**) **have a literacy skill level below that required to participate in a modern skilled economy**. In addition, less than half (44 per cent) have the required numeracy skills.

We will:

- deliver a **Pathways to Participation project**, in partnership with community-based organisations, to address the employability skills and work-readiness of 20 long-term unemployed jobseekers in Port Augusta
- deliver **ACE projects** in the Far North to help 40 regional participants improve their foundation skills, including literacy and numeracy levels.

Employment and training

Through the engagement process, you said:

- more Aboriginal-specific training programs are needed, particularly culturally appropriate support for Aboriginal people participating in pre-employment programs and work placements
- support is needed to increase the recruitment of women and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander employees in the correctional services sector
- funding is needed to develop mentors in the workplace to support new employees, particularly if they have experienced intergenerational or long-term unemployment.

What the data says:



The **unemployment rate for people identifying as Aboriginal is 28.4 per cent** in the Far North.

28.4% UNEMPLOYMENT



The ABS Survey of Education and Work shows that **18 per cent of employed people** in the South Australia Outback region, which includes the Far North, are **classified as underemployed**.

15.8%
YOUTH
UNEMPLOYMENT



The Far North region has a **youth unemployment rate of 15.8 per cent**. A further 1,419 young people are currently employed, which may include a percentage of underemployed young people.

We will:

- fund an **Aboriginal mentoring project** to support 12 to 15 Aboriginal people in Port Augusta to undertake a certificate in justice services
- deliver a **Youth Trade Mentoring** project to assist 40 unemployed or underemployed jobseekers in the Far North (aged 16 to 24) to access and remain in trade-based pathways that lead to training or employment in the region.

Business and industry

Through the engagement process, you said:

- the region needs skilled workers for leadership and middle management positions
- there is a need for skills and training in middle management positions for existing workers who can succeed in a leadership position
- the region requires training for general skills that are transferable across industries, including in management, leadership, food handling skills, customer service skills, trade-related skills and technology skills.

We will:

- deliver an **emerging leaders project** in partnership with industry to develop the knowledge and thinking of 12 local emerging leaders and expand their professional networks and community connections, with the aim of supporting and retaining staff in the region.

Jobs & Skills for Regional SA

Contact

Department for Industry and Skills Skills and Employment Division

GPO Box 320
Adelaide, South Australia 5001

T: 1800 506 266
E: DSD.EngageRegions@sa.gov.au

www.skills.sa.gov.au/YourSAy-regions



Government
of South Australia
Department for
Industry and Skills