

2017-18 INITIAL RESPONSES TO REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT



Limestone Coast

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 \$130,000 in new skills, training and employment projects in the Limestone Coast 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:

- jobseekers who experience disadvantage require additional support to help them address barriers to training and employment and adjust to the workforce
- young people who have left school and have not gained any work experience by the age of 21 find it difficult to find a job
- employers need workers with specialised skill sets, qualifications and professional experience.

What the data says:



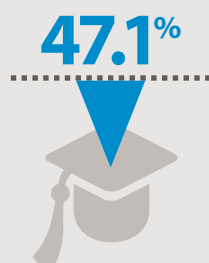
The *DCSI Thriving Communities Atlas* shows a **high percentage of jobless families with dependent children in the region**, ranging from as high as 17.4 per cent in Kingston and 16.5 per cent in Wattle Range, to 7.6 per cent in Naracoorte and Lucindale. Mount Gambier recorded a rate of 8.7 per cent, Tatiara 8.3 per cent, and Robe 8.5 percent.

43%



The *ABS Survey of Education and Work* shows that in the South Australia – South East region, which includes the Limestone Coast, **43 per cent of unemployed persons are long-term unemployed** (i.e. looking for work for more than 52 weeks).

The 2016 *ABS Census* showed that **47.1 per cent of working age unemployed persons** in the Limestone Coast **have low levels of educational attainment**. Of this cohort, 35.9 per cent are not studying.



In the Limestone Coast region, the 2016 *ABS Census* recorded an **unemployment rate of 5.2 per cent**, and a **youth unemployment rate of 11 per cent**.



We will:

- deliver a **Building Family Opportunities Project** to assist 15 long-term jobless families in the Mount Gambier region, with outreach services in Kingston and Wattle Range, which has high levels of unemployment due to economic and social disadvantage
- 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 Mount Gambier.

Business and industry

Through the engagement process, you said:

- mechanical aptitude, leadership and communication are the major areas of skills demand in the region
- all industries need to focus on staff retention and development
- there is a need for more local training tailored to industry needs, and greater investment in upskilling existing workers, particularly for leadership roles, to retain staff in the region.

We will:

- deliver **an emerging leaders project**, in partnership with industry, to support and retain staff in the region and to develop the knowledge and thinking of 22 local emerging leaders while expanding their professional networks and community connections.

Jobs & Skills for Regional SA

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