



## **Regional Employment Trials – A Tasmanian Success Story**

### **An opportunity for work experience and job referrals**

Recognising that some regions face challenges in terms of employment opportunities and growth, the Australian Government through the Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business has introduced the Regional Employment Trials (RET) program in 10 disadvantaged regions, starting 1 October 2018. Tasmania's north and north-west regions are included in the trial.

The trial provides the opportunity for local governments, employers, training organisations, employment services providers and community organisations to design and deliver employment and training related opportunities and assistance to unemployed people in their region.

A Local Employment Initiative Fund of \$1 million was made available in each of the 10 regions, providing grants of between \$7,500 and \$200,000 for employment related projects. Regional Development Australia (RDA) Tasmania played a key role in the identification, assessment and promotion of RET projects to ensure they align with local needs. The program runs from 1 October 2018 and will conclude on 30 June 2020.

In Tasmania the \$1 million fund has been allocated. Working with employment services providers, these projects will support approximately 700 job seekers prepare for employment across a number of locally relevant tailored activities.

The RDA Tasmania Committee encourages employment services providers and employers to support the trial projects by matching participants with work experience and job opportunities. If you'd like more information you can contact the North and North-West Employment Facilitator, James McCormack on 0428 299 262 or [mccormackconsulting@bigpond.com](mailto:mccormackconsulting@bigpond.com).

For more information on the role RDA Tasmania has provided, you can contact RDA Tasmania's CEO and Director of Regional Development, Craig Perkins on 04 09 395 195 or [craig.perkins@rdatasmania.org.au](mailto:craig.perkins@rdatasmania.org.au).

A summary of each project is provided in the table below.

RET Projects	Brief Description	Proponent	Partner Provider	Eligible Participants	Est. # of Participants	Proposed Outcomes
<b>The Hidden Workforce</b>	The Launceston Hidden Workforce Project will engage 25 mature aged job seekers (50 years+) in an intensive supported program over six months to improve their job seeking capability, employability skills, and technical capacity to undertake a range of work.	Envision Employment Services Inc.	Salvation Army Employment Plus	20 places for mature aged job seekers with employment service providers 5 places for mature aged people not registered with a provider	25	An intensive supported program over 6 months to improve their job seeking capability, employability skills, and technical capacity to undertake a range of work.
<b>Mission2 Employment</b>	The project (M2E) will offer job seekers in northern Tasmania a range of intensive personal support services, structured employability directed assistance and workplace exposure over a 16-month period, beginning in early 2019. M2E will leverage the significant capability of Launceston City Mission's (CM) 27 Social Enterprise outlets/programs to offer quality workplace exposure opportunities to participants and will also utilise City Mission's well-established network of employer contacts to source community-based workplace assignments.	Launceston City Mission	MAX Employment (Your town)	100 places for job seekers with employment service providers	100	The program offers a range of intensive personal support services, structured employability, directed assistance and workplace training exposure. Participants enter the program for 26 weeks and work on a Personal Transition Plan (PTP) with the aim to assist them to successfully transition to further training or employment.
<b>Helping Burnie Work</b>	The Helping Burnie Work (HBW) project is focused on skilling local Burnie job seekers to become "job ready" using the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry "Employer Validated Work Readiness Project". HBW will provide classroom-based activity; guest speakers; employer and industry visits; workplace experience days; career advice; further education options information	Burnie Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Business NorthWest)	My Pathway	32 places for job seekers with employment service providers	32	The project will improve job seekers' likeliness of employment, by giving them the skills that employers are seeking. This will align and better connect job seekers to employment opportunities. Increasing a job seeker's employability will create 'job ready' candidates who can contribute to a local employer, earn an income, reduce dependence on welfare, increase well-being including mental health wellbeing.

<b>Pathways to Sustainable Employment</b>	Pathway to Sustainable Employment Project (PSE), West Coast Connect aims to address the vocational and employability skills deficits experienced by unemployed residents of the West Coast. PSE will help a total of 20 unemployed job seekers over a 12 month period through two tailored training, mentoring and work experience programs to gain the necessary vocational and employability skills to find sustainable employment in identified regional industry sectors. The two programs will enable participants to gain both theoretical as well as hands-on skills and knowledge in Conservation and Land Management / Civil Engineering within a non-traditional and holistic training framework.	West Coast Connect INC.	My Pathway	18 Places for job seekers with employment service providers 2 places for or people not registered with a provider.	20	20 participants will have acquired the necessary vocational and employability skills to find sustainable employment with local employers. Through work experience and work trials with local employers supporting the PSE project participants will be able to prove their skills, knowledge and readiness for work.
<b>Together we can....</b>	'Together we can' will support the development of a collaborative environment in the North and North West Region of Tasmania with the common focus of working together to build the capacity and capability of the aged services sector to meet the significant workforce challenges, and demand for workers, facing the region.	Aged & Community Services Australia	CVGT	154 places for job seekers with employment service providers 231 places for or people not registered with a provider.	385	A locally based Workforce & Industry Development Officer will partner with aged service organisations, employment service providers, registered training organisations and government to facilitate activities and initiatives to identify, recruit, support, employ, develop and retain individuals who are the right-fit for the sector, including supporting up to 100 job seekers into employment.
<b>Local Government Careers on the Cradle Coast – The Next Generation</b>	This project will provide 70 job seekers with employability skills training, detailed insights into local government sector employment pathways, and a range of subsequent work experience opportunities across key operational areas of the Cradle Coast Authority's (CCA) nine member councils. It will draw on the diverse range of functional areas within councils, such as administration, horticulture, works, recreation, waste management, natural resource management and events.	Cradle Coast Authority	National Joblink	70 places for job seekers with employment service providers	70	Increased skills, knowledge, confidence and employability for approximately 70 job seekers who will participate in a two week Employability Skills Program delivered at six locations throughout the region.

<b>Welding and Small Tool Training Pilot Program</b>	This intensive training program will prepare a group of 10 job seekers with entry level welding experience and small tools capability (grinders, drills and similar power tools) which are in high demand in manufacturing firms across north west Tasmania. Participants who complete the course will receive accredited training, assessment and certification in core welding skills.	TMMEC	CVGT	10 places for job seekers with employment service providers	10	The training will assist in increasing skills within existing workforces and increase the number of skilled welders available to Tasmanian manufacturers.  PROGRAM COMPLETED
<b>S.U.R.E: Skilling Up for regional Employment</b>	The project, SURE, will provide training and development pathways for up to 12 people, in an intensive intervention program that prepares them to take up entry-level roles in a region experiencing skills and labour shortages in advanced manufacturing, mainstream minerals processing and associated heavy industry.	Migrant Resource Centre Northern Tas Inc	CVGT	12 places for job seekers	12	The ultimate goal is for these experiences and opportunities to result in meaningful pathways to ongoing employment for at least 50% of the participants, which in turn will ensure the retention of individuals and their families in regional Australia.
<b>My Pathway to Driving</b>	The project will support disadvantaged job seekers in North and North West Tasmania, and specifically the community of Devonport, and who do not yet hold a current driving licence, to meet the licensing requirements of Tasmania's Graduated Licensing System (GLS). This will be supplemented by a package of support around employability support to provide the job seeker with the best prospect of securing a sustainable job as soon as they have attained their licence.	My Pathway	My Pathway	Minimum 20 Maximum 30 At least 15% of participants will be unemployed school leavers	20-30	Driver Mentor will be recruited and fully trained, increasing the long-term availability and capacity of such Mentors in North & North West Tasmania during and beyond this project. A specified number of hours of practice driving time for job seekers will be delivered. A specified number of hours of wrap-around employability support will be delivered.

