

Minutes of the Yorke Region Employment and Skills Formation Network Planning meeting held on Wednesday 18th February 2009

VENUE: Kadina TAFE, Kadina
MEETING COMMENCEMENT TIME: 10.35am

Present:

Rosemary Goode, Futures Connect Transition Broker DECS (Chair)
Peter Stockings, Economic Development Officer, YRDB
Bridget Sara, Economic Development Officer, YRDB
David Furniss, DFEEST SA Works
Angie Tucker, Project Manager, Work to Work, DC of the Copper Coast
Janette Hirschausen, Executive Officer, Yorke Local Community Partnership
Shane Richardson, Community Correction
Maria Borsi, DEEWR
Peter Engel, TAFE SA
Michele Appleton, DECS
Jackie Fairlie, DECS Apprenticeship Broker
Eric Cook, TAFE SA
David Parker, Statewide Group Training
Ashley Dickson, Statewide Group Training
Reg Dennis, Statewide Group Training
Cynthia Walton, Complete Personnel
Paul Schultz, Centrelink
Sharyn Zerna, Complete Personnel
Neil Sommers-Cain, TAFE SA Gawler/Roseworthy
Michelle Holthouse, Complete Personnel
Liz Connell, Drought Co-ordinator PIRSA
Ellannie Kemp, Australian & International Industry Training
Ulrike, Aboriginal Access Centre TAFE SA, Port Pirie Campus – Case Manager
Heather Keane, Administration Officer, Yorke Regional Board

1. Welcome

The Chair, Rosemary Goode, welcomed all in attendance.

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted as: Ria Vines, David Hutchinson, Anne Bridges.

3. Guest Speaker – Paul Schultz, Centrelink

Paul Schultz from Centrelink provided statistics on increase in claims from 2007/09 for the following:

- Disability Support Pension - increase
- Newstart Allowance - increase
- Age Pension – increase (people moving into the region to live)
- Carers Allowance - increase
- Carers Payment - increase
- Parenting Payment – (fluctuates)
- Parenting Payment – Single (fluctuates)
- Youth Allowance – Job Seekers – increase
- Youth Allowance – Students – (fluctuates) but trend is slowly increasing

Claims being completed daily has increased from 55-60 to 89 claims per day. Concerns that some of these results will continue to rise due to the ongoing drought and the hardships farmers and subsequent businesses are facing. There are several forms of assistance available however Newstart is asset based and eligibility criteria is an issue for some claims.

4. Guest Speaker – Liz Connell, Drought Coordinator PIRSA

Liz Connell, Drought Coordinator PIRSA reported on changing circumstances. Some farmers have resorted to heading to the mines for casual work and in recent times the contract workers hours have either been reduced or finalised. Another factor concerning farmers is, payment for their crops is in January therefore assuming they have a successful year in 2009 they will be cash strapped for the next 10-11 months. Grape growing areas are finding there is less picking time available i.e. from 8 to 3 weeks picking time and the quality is poorer. These outcomes are affecting local businesses and industry.

5. SA Works Update DFEEST

David Furniss provided power point slides re Update on SA Works into the Future. Topics covered:

- 3 years Strategic Framework Discussion Paper
- The EDB Review of Skills and Workforce Development in SA
- Modelling ‘What Works Well in SA Works in the Region’
- The local context will require improved availability and interpretation of data
- Program Objectives – New directions
- Increasing Workforce Participation
- Increasing Industry Engagement
- Supporting State-wide Economic Directions by Building Regional Capacity.
- Regional Workforce Development Networks
- Global Financial Crisis

Yorke Region has met KPI's and has achieved all targets and outcomes in recent years. The Network function is having data available, interpreting and sharing information to improve analysis of data and delivering the best service to clients. There should be a focus on workforce planning. A suggestion that Regional Development Board's encourage business's to look at planning because the next three years planning cycle will be difficult.

NEW SA WORKS DIRECTIONS

1. Increasing Workforce participation
2. Increasing Industry Engagement/
3. Supporting State-Wide economic directions by building regional capacity

6. Group Discussions – Key Issues Review and Strategies

Additional notes provided in Appendix A.

- Issues
- Engaging participants
- How projects would look

- ISSUES were identified as:
 1. Drought impact
 2. Global Financial Crisis
 3. Inflow of unemployed
 4. Retrenchments
 5. Retail industry shrinking
 6. Industry and service providers must work together to overcome problems.
 7. Importance of Recognised Prior Learning (RPL)
 8. Upskilling required for many retrenched
- Major industries were identified as tourism, hospitality, building and construction, health services, civil construction, natural resource management.
- Major employers in the region were noted as Primo, SYP Hay, Balco, ABB/AWB, Cheetham salt, MS Pickard, Divine Ripe.

ENGAGING PARTICIPANTS

- Business open day, careers expo,
- Consult with businesses one on one to determine their workforce needs, survey and develop a database
- Develop existing links with service providers, business. Need a coordinated approach so businesses are not being harassed by everyone!
- Work to Work project has TOO many participants due to successful word of mouth

PROJECTS

- Run cultural awareness training
- Career Development Centre – shop face
- Upskilling
- Simplified RPL opportunities
- Partnerships with businesses and other service providers to put money together for projects – value-add
- Use YRDB commerce dinner to increase awareness of ESF projects to businesses

7. Close

Rosemary Goode closed the meeting at 1.05pm

APPENDIX A – GROUP DISCUSSION NOTES

ISSUES

- Drought Impact
- Inflow of unemployed
- Most Centrelink Groups (4)
- Retail shrinking
- small business - (sole trader, sub – contractor)
- Fractured relationships need to work better together – (coordinated front)

UPSKILLING CAREER DEVELOPMENT SKILLS

- Keeping Skills in Hard Times
- Industry Forum
- Cultural Awareness Training
- Certificate 111 – Upskilling
- Recognised Prior Learning Simplified

Opportunities

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| • Tourism | • SYP Export Hay |
| • Hospitality | • BALCO |
| • Building/Construction (cyclic) | • MODRA |
| • Transport | • ABB/AWB |
| • Retirees (skilled sets) | • Cheethams Salt |
| • Civil Construction – Quarrying
(local council) | • MS Pickard – Kulpara mine |
| • Health Community Services –
Aged Care | • Divine Ripe |
| • Primo Abattoir (Port Wakefield) | • Fertiliser |
| • Prime Valley Pastoral abattoir
(Two Wells) | • Waste |
| | • Natural Resource Management |

ENGAGING PARTICIPANTS

Business Open Day – Careers expo

Consult with Business – One on One

Workforce Data/Base

Existing Links – Chamber of Commerce (Business/Traders, Trainers/providers, Need a coordinated approach

Survey 2007 - Workforce Planning

Expo Model - (Mystery Flight - Students/SA Works –travel via mini bus to Businesses in the area to broaden their horizons.

Market the courses

Farmers: Recognised Prior Learning, New ages for drivers license for Apprenticeships (mobility issues),

Civil Construction - Skills DMC

Projects

- Cultural Awareness Training
- Funding to employ a part time officer at Career Development Centre - \$19,000 would do it.
- Certificate 111 upskilling
- RPL opportunities – simplified (RPL Specialist)
- Projects that have opportunities for jobs at the end of the day and have strong linkages to industry.
- Career Development week
- Capture all of the stakeholders who could form partnerships – (tighten up/work smarter)
Improve the links between State and Federal Government.
Intelligence gathering.
Upskilling
Career/work-force development.

Strategies

- Link with projects like NRM, Aboriginal Lands Trust and other projects – (coordinated approach)
- Process of upskilling very important need to place a higher value on higher education (min cert 3)
- Local projects to be targeted on Areas that are experiencing problems with recruitment.
- With greater emphasis on work-force development.
- ESF to act strategically and act as a driving force in making contact with.

Engaging participants – (new partnerships)

Potentially:

- Up to 100 – court ordered participants to engage in community programs that will link into existing programs from 3-18 months- (captured audience)
- Shop front access for up to 3 hours of assistance with skills assessments, planning, action plan development, referrals
- Fractured relationships – New Partnerships: SA Works, Family SA, SA Police, SA Housing. Improve our current networks in a coordinated approach, improve knowledge of each others purposes – maximise resources, everyone involved in intelligence gathering and sharing, communication links – site upload material.
- Approach business one on one, business wants information of where to go and what to do, YRDB Business Adviser – how to make it work better, train and then provide positions for participants, job outcomes for next 3 years will be tough, have support mechanisms in place based on information when industry improves.