



# THE HON DR SHARMAN STONE MP

## Minister for Workforce Participation

### MEDIA RELEASE

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## Latest Star Ratings show Job Network success in helping more unemployed Australians into work

**The latest performance evaluation of the Australian Government's Job Network shows it continues to be very successful, the Minister for Workforce Participation, Dr Sharman Stone, said today.**

The evaluation, called the Star Ratings, compares the performance of Job Network members as they aim to place unemployed people into jobs across Australia. It is released every six months and the highest rating is five stars.

"The Job Network has helped nearly 640,000 Australians find work in the last twelve months, including record job placements for disadvantaged Australians," Dr Stone said.

Job Network is playing a vital role in connecting job seekers with the thousands of new employment, training and rehabilitation places now available under the Australian Government's Welfare to Work reforms.

Dr Stone said an indication of the strong performance of Job Network members was the fact that the majority of providers now rank over three stars.

"In the Melbourne region, 79% of Job Network member sites have a three star rating or above. In Brisbane the figure is 86%, in Adelaide 80%, in Sydney 71%, in Hobart 83%, in Canberra 89% and in Darwin the figure is 100%.

"A number of regional areas have also achieved high star ratings. The standout regions are Southern Western Australia, Illawarra and South East New South Wales, Central and Northern Queensland and Eastern Victoria. These regions had 93%, 92%, 86% and 83% of their Job Network member sites at three stars and above respectively," Dr Stone said.

The latest Job Network performance figures for 2005-6 financial year also show that Job Network is achieving impressive results in helping disadvantaged Australians to find a job. Nearly 24,000 long term jobs were found for people of working age on welfare aged 50 years or over, 2 500 long term jobs were found for people receiving the disability support pension and nearly 17,000 parents, receiving parenting payments, were placed into long term jobs, a new annual record and double the previous financial year.

"There has never been a better time to find a job in Australia. Our unemployment rate has now fallen to 4.9 per cent, the lowest level since November 1976.

"The Job Network is getting unemployed Australians into work and the Government is dedicated to ensuring this continues," Dr Stone said.

For more information on the Job Network Star Ratings, visit [workplace.gov.au](http://workplace.gov.au)

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