



Job Network— better services from more sites than ever before

Unemployed people are being helped by 110 Job Network members and hundreds of licensed recruitment agents operating from more than 2700 sites across Australia — nearly ten times more than the old CES ever had.

Job Network members in both metropolitan and country locations are already achieving outstanding outcomes by tailoring the way Job Network delivers its services to suit local labour market conditions.

- ✓ There is flexibility in how often job seekers and their JNM meet—so that the job seeker doesn't have to travel long distances merely to fill out a form.
- ✓ Services have been adjusted to fit the needs of the local labour market and job seekers to ensure employers' needs are met.
- ✓ JNMs have flexibility to pool funds to purchase specialist services and equipment that might otherwise not be available in rural and remote areas for job seekers to get jobs.

The Job Seeker Account provides funds for JNMs to use on individual job seekers to purchase items to help them into employment.

- ✓ Job seekers can get help with the cost of travel, licences, trade tools, protective clothing to get them started or training to increase their work skills.
- ✓ The Account can be pooled in rural and remote areas, for example: to provide wage subsidies to support a new community business, bring in a specialist trainer to run a course for a local employer offering jobs or to kit out new mine recruits.

A Job Network member in Canberra used the Job Seeker Account to assist a young man who had been unemployed for almost three years. They worked together to identify suitable job opportunities and used the Job Seeker Account to put the job seeker through a bar course and buy a chef's uniform and knives. He is now an apprentice chef on his way to becoming a qualified chef.

Innovative service delivery for industry and employers

- ✓ A special taskforce is working with JNMs, employers and employer groups in five key industries experiencing some difficulty in recruiting staff. JNMs are helping employers in these industries find local solutions to their problems and get the right staff on the job.
- ✓ Some of the work of the taskforce also focuses on target groups— such as mature age and Indigenous job seekers — while the rest is more broadly focussed on industries.

A recent initiative in Nelson Bay NSW, brought together a local Job Network member, a local training provider, the Restaurant and Catering Association of NSW and local employers in the restaurant sector. It produced employment for 25 job seekers, around half of whom are mature age. And for the employers? They receive well-trained committed staff provided by a professional recruitment service that they know. Similar initiatives are being developed in Ballarat (Victoria) and the ACT.

More information on the range of industry projects is available at www.jobnetwork.gov.au