



THE HON DR SHARMAN STONE MP

Minister for Workforce Participation

M E D I A R E L E A S E

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LATEST STAR RATINGS SHOW CONTINUED SUCCESS OF JOB NETWORK

“Job Network is continuing to provide excellent results for job seekers as shown in their latest performance ratings,” the Minister for Workforce Participation, Dr Sharman Stone, said today.

The Star Ratings system compares the performance of Job Network members across Australia and is released every six months.

In 2005, Job Network recorded a total of 657,000 jobs found for the unemployed and more than 188,000 long-term jobs were achieved for disadvantaged job seekers and those unemployed for more than three months – both are new annual records.

“The fact remains that in the last six months the Coalition Government has created more jobs than Labor created in their last six years of Government.

“Job Network is performing well right across Australia. It is helping more Australians find real jobs in good time. It is also providing targeted personalised assistance to those needing a hand to find that full or part time job,” Dr Stone said.

In 1998, the Howard Government revolutionised employment services. The failed CES and ‘Working Nation’ programmes were replaced with a contracted out service delivered by not for profit and commercial providers. The Job Network now provides intensive support services to those most disadvantaged in the labour market, customised to their individual needs and tailored to fit local job opportunities, in more than 1000 locations across Australia.

“The Howard Government has been consistently raising the bar for Job Network and members have responded extremely well. I congratulate Job Network members on their achievements,” Dr Stone said.

Dr Stone said a good snap-shot of the strong performance of Job Network members in placing people into jobs could be gained by looking at some results from Australia’s capital cities and regions.

“In the Melbourne region, 75% of Job Network members have a three star rating or above. In Brisbane the figure is 81%, in Adelaide 71%, in Sydney 67%, in Hobart 83%, in Canberra 60% and in Darwin the figure is 100%.

“A number of regional areas have also recorded high star ratings. The standout regions are Southern Western Australia, Eastern Victoria and Illawarra and South East New South Wales. These regions had 93%, 89% and 82% of their Job Network member sites at three stars and above respectively,” Dr Stone said.

“The Howard Government is committed to helping any Australian who wants to work find a job. Our Welfare to Work reforms will add approximately 450,000 new employment, training and rehabilitation places, building on the success of the Job Network in helping people with disabilities, parents with children reaching school age, mature age and very long term unemployed people into work.

“The Star Ratings measurement system demonstrates the effectiveness of the Job Network in getting unemployed Australians into work and the Government is dedicated to ensuring this continues,” Dr Stone said.

The Star Ratings can be found at www.workplace.gov.au

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