



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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Job Network moving more people into work than ever before

The latest Job Network 'Star Ratings' show that Job Network is leading the way in moving people off welfare and into work, the Minister for Workforce Participation, Dr Sharman Stone MP, said today.

The six-monthly ratings identify how Job Network members are performing in placing job seekers into work.

Minister Stone said Job Network members were at the forefront in finding real, long-term jobs for unemployed Australians, and doing an even better job as time went on.

"In 2006, almost 645,000 job placements were made by Job Network members and other Job Placement organisations," Minister Stone said.

"Job Network has played a key role in getting Australia's unemployment rate down to a 30-year low. Job Network members are a vital point of contact between job seekers and employers. They also connect job seekers with thousands of new employment, training and rehabilitation places available through the Australian Government's Welfare to Work reforms.

"Welfare to Work is encouraging more Australians to get into the labour force. That, in turn, gives them a better lifestyle and better care for their families, as well as contributing to Australia's growth.

"The Star Ratings and the performance profile report show how the Job Network members are making it happen."

"During 2006 Job Network found more than 180,500 long-term (13-weeks-plus) jobs for disadvantaged job seekers and people unemployed for more than three months," the Minister said.

"During the last calendar year close to 24,000 mature age job seekers who had been unemployed for more than three months were placed into long-term jobs. Job Network members also found 15,700 long-term jobs for disadvantaged job seekers and those unemployed for more than three months and who have a disability."

"In 2006 15,700 sole parents were helped off benefits and into work, which highlights the early success of the Government's Welfare to Work reforms," Minister Stone said.

For more information on the Job Network Star Ratings, visit www.workplace.gov.au.

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