

To whom it may concern

Re: Youth Jobs Strategy Discussion Paper

West North West Working (WNWW) is the Regional Jobs Hub for King Island, the North West and West Coasts.

Operational staff and Board Committee members of WNWW have heard anecdotal evidence from young people, their key influencers and employers that a different, more nuanced approach to managing the transition from school to work is needed. As a people-centred, place-based collective impact organisation, we support the design principles, common elements and phases outlined in the discussion paper.

We believe the issues illustrated in the discussion paper are perhaps more noticeable, harder to address and have greater impact in our regional and remote communities. Opportunities available in cities are not as available here and challenges are amplified.

WNWW conducted a survey of people aged 15-24 in May 2023 to understand impacts lack of transport or a driver's licence had on gaining employment. We also took the opportunity to ask what other issues impacted young people.

The data we collected anonymously from 153 young people showed that in addition to transport barriers, young people are impacted by lack of confidence, not knowing what they want to do for work and not knowing where to start.

Respondents were asked what they thought was needed to help more young people get into work, study or training. A common theme was the need for more information about what types of jobs and training existed. Comments focused on increasing information in schools, but others mentioned the need for different advertising methods to communicate more broadly.

WNWW also works with business and industry to help employers connect to job seekers. Employers express frustration about not having an avenue to address students directly and the perception of 'generational' differences is strong.

In response to what we've learned, we have been trialling several programs. For example, our Regional Business Workshops on attraction and retention of staff includes a section on diversity (youth, ageing, CALD). Also, the recently launched Youth Career Facilitator aims to pilot responses centred around the transition from school to work.

WNWW offers our continued support and assistance in the development and implementation of the Youth Jobs Strategy.

Yours sincerely



Kate Ettlin
Chair, West North West Working