

**House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development,
Infrastructure and Transport
*Inquiry into local government sustainability***

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Date of hearing: 07 June 2024**

Outcome: Jobs and Skills Australia

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations Question No. IQ24-000029

Mr Tony Pasin MP on 07 June 2024, Proof Hansard page 19

JSA | Skills Priority List | Feedback from local government

Question

ACTING CHAIR: When you are identifying the Skills Priority List, are you seeking out the feedback from local government?

Mr Turvey: I would have to take on notice exactly what input we got from local government. The process we used to develop the Skills Priority List is extensive; it takes us about nine months. It's based on a survey that we conduct of businesses where we have done recruitment activity. We asked them about their recruitment processes and how successful it was, and we use that to estimate the likelihood of a job being filled. We then use that data in an economic model, which takes into account a range of other labour market factors. We then have two rounds of submission processes where all stakeholders can, and do, make submissions. We then supplement that with a range of direct stakeholder engagement. I would have to check exactly how many submissions or how much engagement we've had from the local government sector.

ACTING CHAIR: On notice, could I ask you to give that some attention. Before I pass to my colleagues, on notice, and if possible, could I also ask for you to provide to the committee the categories of skills that would find a home in local government and the assessment you've made in relation to those criteria that you just set out: whether in fact the shortfall is because we're not training enough staff, or because retention is an issue, or the skills are not matched with what employers are looking for. That would be a really useful tool, if you are able to provide a short summary of that for the purpose of this inquiry.

Mr Turvey: The submission that we made to the inquiry on table 2, which is on page 6 of the submission, lists the most common occupations employed in local government. It includes the assessment that we've made about the skills shortage and whether or not the occupation is in shortage. It also draws attention to the skills and the driver of the shortage.

ACTING CHAIR: Thank you for that. With respect to the Skills Priority List, I'd appreciate what engagement local government had in relation to those shortages or priority areas of the skills.

Answer

Jobs and Skills Australia has provided the following response:

For the 2023 Skills Priority List, there were six survey submissions from Regional Development Australia bodies. These responses covered a total of 39 different occupations. Aged or Disabled Carer, Electrician (General) and Child Care Worker were the highest employing occupations that were reflected in these responses.

For the 2024 Skills Priority List, which is still under development, Jobs and Skills Australia received a total of five relevant survey submissions – three from Regional Development Australia bodies; one from a local council in a regional area; and one from a peak body that represents regional areas. These survey submissions covered a total of 74 different occupations. Sales Assistant (General), Aged or Disabled Carer and Primary School Teacher were the highest employing occupations that were reflected in these responses.

**House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development,
Infrastructure and Transport**
Inquiry into local government sustainability

QUESTION ON NOTICE
Date of hearing: 07 June 2024

Outcome: Jobs and Skills Australia

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations Question No. IQ24-000030

Mr Tony Pasin MP on 07 June 2024, Proof Hansard page 21

JSA | Provide data on graduate destinations by industry

Question

ACTING CHAIR: Can I follow something up. Would the department have any data on how many graduates in these technical skills fields local government is employing currently? I'm keen to find out whether we're seeing increasing numbers of graduates finding homes in local government or whether we're seeing a deep decline. Is that something that is within the purview of the department to access?

Mr Turvey: Jobs and Skills Australia has access to data on that. We use data from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research on activity in the training system, in the VET sector. We also look at data from the higher education system, which is Department of Education data on university graduations. We are linking that with data on employment from the ABS and the tax office. Some of that information is in our submission, where we have talked about movements in and out of roles in the local government sector. Certainly, we have given you a little bit of evidence about where we have seen movement.

ACTING CHAIR: I understand that data. I also understood you to say that when that body of work is completed you would provide that on notice to us. I expect it will show what is the draw to the NDIS and other programs that are funded. I am seeing that in my own community. Sawmills are losing people to caring roles funded by the NDIS. I am keen to understand whether what I am seeing locally is a part of the grander problem—that is, a reluctance by employers, including across the field of local government, to take on graduates because it's a very time-consuming and expensive exercise in the early years of people's careers. I am keen to get to the bottom of that. If it is not possible, I understand that.

Mr Turvey: Certainly, the data we drew on for the submission could help us understand to some extent whether people are coming straight out of the formal education system and into those roles.

Answer

Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA) has provided the following response.

JSA is unable within the short time frame for this Question on Notice to provide data on graduate destinations by industry, due to the complexity of analysis required and the additional time frame required by the ABS to clear outputs from linked administrative datasets from the ABS datalab.

To aid in the understanding of movements between industries the following data is provided. This data expands on the data provided in the JSA submission and are based on linked administrative data. Table 1 shows the full list of previous industries for people who moved into Local Government between 2020–21 and 2021–22. The largest group has come from those not employed in 2020–21 (17.6% of employees who moved in Local Government), followed by Administrative and Support Services (13.1%), then Health Care and Social Assistance (9.4%).

Table 1: Previous industry of employees who moved into Local government between 2020-21 and 2021-22		
Industry Division	Number	%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	500	1.7
Mining	230	0.8
Manufacturing	820	2.8
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	340	1.1
Construction	1,400	4.8
Wholesale Trade	560	1.9
Retail Trade	1,960	6.6
Accommodation and Food Services	1,830	6.2
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	670	2.3
Information Media and Telecommunications	280	1.0
Financial and Insurance Services	780	2.7
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	440	1.5
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	1,800	6.1
Administrative and Support Services	3,850	13.1
Public Administration and Safety excl. local government	1,900	6.4
Education and Training	1,440	4.9
Health Care and Social Assistance	2,770	9.4
Arts and Recreation Services	1,670	5.7
Other Services	990	3.4
Not employed in 2020-21	5,180	17.6
Total employees who moved into Local Government	29,410	100.0

Source: JSA analysis of ABS Microdata: ATO Personal Income Tax (PIT), Business Longitudinal Analysis Data Environment, Datalab. Note estimates rounded to nearest 10.

The three tables below (Tables 2 to 4) show the equivalent data to the table above but for each industry division. For most industry divisions the largest group (highlighted in green) have come from people not employed in the previous year, this is particularly notable for Accommodation and food services (62.1% of people moving into this industry), Agriculture forestry and fishing (45.6%), and Retail trade (44.6%). Movements from Administrative and support services are also common among many industries (highest (green) or second highest (blue) for 9 of the industry divisions).

Table 2: Previous industry of employees who moved industries between 2020-21 and 2021-22 (selected industries)

Industry of employment 2020-21	Industry of employment 2021-22													
	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing		Mining		Manufacturing		Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services		Construction		Wholesale Trade		Retail Trade	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing			800	1.8	4460	2.3	340	1.4	4280	1.8	3150	2.1	4190	1.1
Mining	540	0.7			1550	0.8	320	1.2	3470	1.4	810	0.6	560	0.1
Manufacturing	3730	5.1	3660	8.5			1320	5.2	16820	7.0	15950	10.8	14390	3.8
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	310	0.4	370	0.8	1020	0.5			2080	0.9	770	0.5	910	0.2
Construction	3190	4.4	4530	10.5	12460	6.5	2760	10.9			6180	4.2	8330	2.2
Wholesale Trade	2700	3.7	1310	3.0	13590	7.1	940	3.7	7500	3.1			20470	5.4
Retail Trade	4180	5.7	1660	3.9	16380	8.5	1250	5.0	16040	6.7	18620	12.7		
Accommodation and Food Services	4520	6.2	1620	3.8	15330	8.0	830	3.3	15640	6.5	10440	7.1	56420	14.9
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	2220	3.0	1740	4.0	4960	2.6	1060	4.2	6450	2.7	4400	3.0	6660	1.8
Information Media and Telecommunications	130	0.2	100	0.2	1010	0.5	200	0.8	1430	0.6	1400	1.0	3140	0.8
Financial and Insurance Services	1050	1.4	1880	4.4	5250	2.7	2140	8.4	6020	2.5	3860	2.6	8820	2.3
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	1170	1.6	800	1.9	3020	1.6	330	1.3	6100	2.5	3070	2.1	5440	1.4
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	2280	3.1	5260	12.2	9710	5.0	2270	9.0	17440	7.3	8390	5.7	13090	3.5
Administrative and Support Services	7330	10.1	9750	22.6	26970	14.0	4310	17.0	31010	12.9	15590	10.6	30100	7.9
Public Administration and Safety excl. local government	960	1.3	750	1.7	2590	1.3	570	2.3	4360	1.8	1640	1.1	3660	1.0
Local Government Administration	460	0.6	300	0.7	590	0.3	360	1.4	1360	0.6	420	0.3	980	0.3
Education and Training	1130	1.5	580	1.3	2910	1.5	790	3.1	3790	1.6	2450	1.7	6650	1.8
Health Care and Social Assistance	1520	2.1	740	1.7	4080	2.1	540	2.1	5620	2.3	3550	2.4	11280	3.0
Arts and Recreation Services	720	1.0	180	0.4	1540	0.8	160	0.6	2250	0.9	1380	0.9	5270	1.4
Other Services	1450	2.0	1860	4.3	5060	2.6	610	2.4	6790	2.8	3820	2.6	9930	2.6
Not employed in 2020-21	33150	45.6	5200	12.1	59910	31.1	4200	16.6	81810	34.1	41180	28.0	169050	44.6
Total employees who moved into industry	72730	100.0	43080	100.0	192390	100.0	25280	100.0	240240	100.0	147060	100.0	379300	100.0

Source: JSA analysis of ABS Microdata: ATO Personal Income Tax (PIT), Business Longitudinal Analysis Data Environment, Datalab. Note estimates rounded to nearest 10.

**Table 3: Previous industry of employees who moved industries between 2020-21 and 2021-22
(selected industries)**

Industry of employment 2020-21	Industry of employment 2021-22											
	Accommodation and Food Services		Transport, Postal and Warehousing		Information Media and Telecommunications		Financial and Insurance Services		Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services		Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	5270	1.4	2760	2.5	150	0.3	1350	0.8	1230	1.5	2710	0.9
Mining	310	0.1	1130	1.0	60	0.1	1670	1.0	740	0.9	3170	1.0
Manufacturing	10430	2.8	5510	5.0	970	2.1	5980	3.7	2950	3.6	12080	4.0
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	390	0.1	950	0.9	160	0.4	960	0.6	320	0.4	2080	0.7
Construction	6500	1.7	5430	4.9	940	2.1	7710	4.7	5790	7.0	17460	5.7
Wholesale Trade	5610	1.5	4530	4.1	2700	5.9	5000	3.1	2670	3.2	12430	4.1
Retail Trade	28370	7.6	7880	7.1	3850	8.4	13060	8.0	7660	9.2	23750	7.8
Accommodation and Food Services			6940	6.3	2990	6.5	9420	5.8	8770	10.6	18980	6.2
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	3770	1.0			540	1.2	3980	2.4	2760	3.3	4830	1.6
Information Media and Telecommunications	1450	0.4	540	0.5			2520	1.5	750	0.9	7720	2.5
Financial and Insurance Services	10140	2.7	2880	2.6	1810	4.0			3090	3.7	14220	4.7
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	7630	2.0	2010	1.8	680	1.5	3720	2.3			5930	1.9
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	8080	2.2	4720	4.3	7770	17.0	16680	10.2	4780	5.8		
Administrative and Support Services	23600	6.3	17160	15.5	4220	9.2	21540	13.2	7920	9.5	36820	12.1
Public Administration and Safety excl. local government	2520	0.7	2530	2.3	860	1.9	6300	3.9	1260	1.5	10550	3.5
Local Government Administration	710	0.2	650	0.6	210	0.5	900	0.6	360	0.4	2370	0.8
Education and Training	5330	1.4	1760	1.6	1530	3.3	4060	2.5	1390	1.7	12900	4.2
Health Care and Social Assistance	8930	2.4	2980	2.7	1090	2.4	9380	5.8	3410	4.1	13500	4.4
Arts and Recreation Services	6440	1.7	1010	0.9	1050	2.3	1690	1.0	1160	1.4	3750	1.2
Other Services	6000	1.6	2730	2.5	710	1.5	3860	2.4	2190	2.6	8540	2.8
Not employed in 2020-21	232260	62.1	36710	33.1	13400	29.3	43150	26.5	23830	28.7	91580	30.0
Total employees who moved into industry	373740	100.0	110770	100.0	45710	100.0	162910	100.0	83030	100.0	305350	100.0

Source: JSA analysis of ABS Microdata: ATO Personal Income Tax (PIT), Business Longitudinal Analysis Data Environment, Datalab. Note estimates rounded to nearest 10.

**Table 4: Previous industry of employees who moved industries between 2020-21 and 2021-22
(selected industries)**

	Industry of employment 2021-22											
	Public											
	Administrative and Support Services		Administration and Safety excl. local government		Education and Training		Health Care and Social Assistance		Arts and Recreation Services		Other Services	
Industry of employment 2020-21	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	9230	2.0	1450	0.7	1170	0.8	2560	0.8	900	1.3	1700	1.2
Mining	5070	1.1	500	0.2	330	0.2	420	0.1	90	0.1	1180	0.8
Manufacturing	23170	4.9	4420	2.1	2700	1.8	8850	2.6	1410	2.1	5640	3.9
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	2620	0.6	670	0.3	280	0.2	590	0.2	160	0.2	430	0.3
Construction	28940	6.1	5600	2.7	2770	1.8	6180	1.8	1310	2.0	6400	4.5
Wholesale Trade	14110	3.0	2850	1.4	2250	1.5	6300	1.9	1170	1.8	4100	2.9
Retail Trade	32650	6.9	13140	6.2	9650	6.3	32070	9.5	5610	8.4	12690	8.8
Accommodation and Food Services	41090	8.7	10120	4.8	9470	6.1	32610	9.6	10270	15.4	10150	7.1
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	14020	3.0	2970	1.4	1490	1.0	4180	1.2	890	1.3	2580	1.8
Information Media and Telecommunications	4180	0.9	1710	0.8	1270	0.8	1780	0.5	1140	1.7	770	0.5
Financial and Insurance Services	17160	3.6	7060	3.3	2920	1.9	16220	4.8	1590	2.4	3190	2.2
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	8990	1.9	2030	1.0	1490	1.0	5190	1.5	1120	1.7	2230	1.6
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	32160	6.8	12020	5.7	7930	5.1	12860	3.8	2560	3.8	5890	4.1
Administrative and Support Services			21150	10.0	9430	6.1	45160	13.3	5370	8.1	10740	7.5
Public Administration and Safety excl. local government	12170	2.6			10570	6.8	16220	4.8	1360	2.0	5000	3.5
Local Government Administration	3660	0.8	2390	1.1	1380	0.9	3110	0.9	570	0.8	910	0.6
Education and Training	10290	2.2	13450	6.4			17270	5.1	3190	4.8	4800	3.3
Health Care and Social Assistance	31320	6.6	29340	13.9	24590	15.9			2710	4.1	13110	9.1
Arts and Recreation Services	5160	1.1	2860	1.4	3070	2.0	4900	1.4			2060	1.4
Other Services	11270	2.4	5330	2.5	5240	3.4	17090	5.0	2080	3.1		
Not employed in 2020-21	164000	34.8	71730	34.0	56300	36.5	105330	31.1	23080	34.7	49860	34.8
Total employees who moved into industry	471250	100.0	210790	100.0	154290	100.0	338870	100.0	66540	100.0	143430	100.0

Source: JSA analysis of ABS Microdata: ATO Personal Income Tax (PIT), Business Longitudinal Analysis Data Environment, Datalab. Note estimates rounded to nearest 10.

**House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development,
Infrastructure and Transport**
Inquiry into local government sustainability

QUESTION ON NOTICE
Date of hearing: 07 June 2024

Outcome: Jobs and Skills Australia

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations Question No. IQ24-000030

Mr Tony Pasin MP on 07 June 2024, Proof Hansard page 21

JSA | Provide data on graduate destinations by industry – Additional information provided

Question

ACTING CHAIR: Can I follow something up. Would the department have any data on how many graduates in these technical skills fields local government is employing currently? I'm keen to find out whether we're seeing increasing numbers of graduates finding homes in local government or whether we're seeing a deep decline. Is that something that is within the purview of the department to access?

Mr Turvey: Jobs and Skills Australia has access to data on that. We use data from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research on activity in the training system, in the VET sector. We also look at data from the higher education system, which is Department of Education data on university graduations. We are linking that with data on employment from the ABS and the tax office. Some of that information is in our submission, where we have talked about movements in and out of roles in the local government sector. Certainly, we have given you a little bit of evidence about where we have seen movement.

ACTING CHAIR: I understand that data. I also understood you to say that when that body of work is completed you would provide that on notice to us. I expect it will show what is the draw to the NDIS and other programs that are funded. I am seeing that in my own community. Sawmills are losing people to caring roles funded by the NDIS. I am keen to understand whether what I am seeing locally is a part of the grander problem—that is, a reluctance by employers, including across the field of local government, to take on graduates because it's a very time-consuming and expensive exercise in the early years of people's careers. I am keen to get to the bottom of that. If it is not possible, I understand that.

Mr Turvey: Certainly, the data we drew on for the submission could help us understand to some extent whether people are coming straight out of the formal education system and into those roles.

Answer

Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA) has provided the following additional response, following the previous advice that JSA was unable to provide data on graduate destinations by industry within the initial timeframe.

To provide an indication of the extent to which recent qualification completers are employed by different industries, JSA has used linked administrative data to show the industry of employment of people who completed a VET or Higher Education qualification in the year

before, as a proportion of the total employee jobs in each industry (at the division level) and for the industry group Local Government Administration, see Table 1.

For Local Government Administration, 5.9% of all employees in 2020-21 were people who had completed a qualification in 2019. This was a similar proportion to 2019-20 (6.0%) but lower than both 2018-19 (6.5%) and 2017-18 (6.8). Around three-quarters of the qualification completers in each year had completed a VET qualification.

Across other industries the highest proportions of recent qualification completers were in Public Administration and Safety (excluding local government) (11.5% of employees in 2020-21 had completed a qualification in 2019, down from 12.8% of employees in 2017-18 who had completed a qualification in 2016), followed by Accommodation and Food services (10.4% in 2020-21, higher than the other years), and Health Care and Social Assistance (9.5% in 2020-21, higher than the other years).

Industries that have higher proportions of recent higher education qualification completers include Public Administration and Safety (excl local government), Health Care and Social Assistance, and Education and Training. The industries with higher proportions of recent VET graduates include Accommodation and Food Services, Public Administration and Safety (excluding local government), and Administrative and Support Services.

Note that there are some limitations with this data as it can not be determined whether the people who completed a qualification in the previous year are employed in a designated graduate role or whether they also have other qualifications. Also the data does not contain information about the field of education undertaken so it is not clear whether the industry of employment is directly relevant to the qualification completed.

Table 1: Proportion of recent qualification completers, employed by Industry, 2017-18 to 2020-21

Industry	2017-18 %	2018-19 %	2019-20 %	2020-21 %
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	5.9	5.5	4.8	5.7
Mining	6.2	5.9	5.1	5.1
Manufacturing	5.2	4.9	4.4	4.4
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	4.3	4.2	3.8	3.9
Construction	6.1	5.9	5.6	5.7
Wholesale Trade	4.9	4.8	4.2	4.2
Retail Trade	6.9	6.8	6.6	6.8
Accommodation and Food Services	10.0	9.9	9.2	10.4
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	3.8	3.5	3.4	3.4
Information Media and Telecommunications	4.6	4.8	4.0	4.5
Financial and Insurance Services	6.6	6.1	5.7	5.3
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	6.3	6.1	6.0	5.7
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	5.5	5.7	5.3	5.2
Administrative and Support Services	9.1	8.5	7.8	8.3
Public Administration and Safety excluding LGA	12.8	10.5	11.1	11.5
Local Government Administration	6.8	6.5	6.0	5.9
Education and Training	6.1	6.7	5.6	6.3
Health Care and Social Assistance	9.2	8.7	8.6	9.5
Arts and Recreation Services	7.5	7.2	6.7	7.0
Other Services	7.4	7.1	6.5	6.7

Sources: ABS, Jobs and Income of employed persons, 2019-20 and 2020-21, tablebuilder; ABS Jobs in Australia 2011-12 to 2028-19, tablebuilder; JSA analysis of ABS Microdata: ATO Personal Income Tax (PIT), Business Longitudinal Analysis Data Environment, NCVET Total VET Students and Courses, and Department of Education Higher Education statistics, Datalab.

**House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development,
Infrastructure and Transport
*Inquiry into local government sustainability***

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Date of hearing: 07 June 2024**

Outcome: Jobs and Skills Australia

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations Question No. IQ24-000031

Mr Tony Pasin MP on 07 June 2024, Proof Hansard page 22-23

JSA | Local Jobs Program

Question

ACTING CHAIR: There is no current architecture between the federal government and local government which incentivises or encourages that?

Ms Houston: I am not aware of it.

Mr Turvey: One thing I would point to is something called the Local Jobs program, which our department runs.

ACTING CHAIR: I am familiar with it.

Mr Turvey: It is not local government specific; it is region specific. The idea is to bring together all of the relevant parties from a region to think about the regional labour market. Obviously, local government would be a key part of that.

ACTING CHAIR: It was a COVID initiative. Ms Chesters?

Ms CHESTERS: Can you give us any feedback on how successful those Local Jobs programs have been? In your opinion, are they meeting the needs of local regions?

Mr Turvey: I can't give you, off the top of my head, any evidence about the evaluation of those programs. I know that the department has a sophisticated evaluation strategy in this field. Unfortunately, the people at the table here are not experts on that program. Certainly, at Jobs and Skills Australia, we provide significant information which is used by local jobs coordinators and other people in those programs to try to understand the needs of the local region. It's an area where there is further work constantly to try and make that program work better, and helping to bring the relevant parties in the regions together, to better understand the workforce needs and how to meet them. I can take on notice whether there has been any evaluation work done on that particular program.

Ms CHESTERS: That would be great; and any direct connection to local government. My experience of them is that they very rarely, if ever, engage in local government. If they do, it is as an advocacy role for a particular business, as opposed to their own staffing needs.

Mr Turvey: Certainly.

Answer

The Local Jobs Program (LJP) is a collaborative initiative bringing together expertise and resources to develop employment solutions at a local level. A key focus of the program is to support the more effective local delivery of employment services, achieved by leveraging existing programs and resources, reducing duplication, and providing opportunities for local collaboration. Funding has been provided for local initiatives to fill gaps in local servicing to help job seekers into work or training opportunities aligned with local needs.

Each Employment Region has an Employment Facilitator who brings together local employment and skills services, employers and community organisations to connect people to training, job opportunities and support services. Employment Facilitators and Support Officers also regularly meet and partner with the local governments in their employment regions with program reporting showing that 43 (84%) Employment Facilitators had an engagement with a local government representative during the period January to April 2024.

Each Employment Region also has a Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce, chaired by the Employment Facilitator. Taskforce members are highly valued and represent, and are reflective of, their community. Taskforce members work collaboratively in developing local solutions to help people gain the right skills to get a job, and in assisting employer workforce needs. Local governments are key stakeholders in the LJP, with 32 (63%) of the Local Jobs and Skills Taskforces having a local government representative.

Insights research and feedback from stakeholders has shown that LJP has created valuable outcomes that respond to local labour market challenges including:

- Improving coordination of existing services, programs and employers.
- Developing new initiatives to address gaps in the local services system.
- Advocating to remove local barriers.
- Indirectly helping others be more effective.

An evaluation of the LJP was published on November 2022, covering the initial 25 regions. The evaluation found that overall, each of the elements of the Local Jobs Program model (Employment Facilitators, Jobs and Skills Taskforce, Local Jobs Plan and Local Recovery Fund) had been implemented as intended and that most stakeholders overwhelmingly value the place-based approach underpinning the LJP and the focus on local employment issues and solutions.