



Australian Government



Jobs and Skills Australia

# Regional, rural and remote Australia jobs and skills roadmap

## Our commitment to regional, rural and remote Australia

Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA) is committed to recognising the unique experience and perspectives of those outside major metropolitan areas by ensuring the workforce can meet the skills needs of regional, rural and remote Australia.

A number of significant structural trends will shape the Australian economy and labour market over coming years. Indeed, the ageing of the population, the rising demand for care and support services, the increased use of digital and advanced technologies and the net zero transformation will all have considerable implications on the composition of the labour market and the types of jobs and skills needed

To ensure a region's workforce can meet its labour market needs, it is critical that the regional skills system can make effective connections and pathways to supply skills to meet the growing and changing skills demand of the future.

JSA is committed to developing a Regional, Rural and Remote Jobs and Skills Roadmap to support regional Australia.

## Towards a Regional, Rural and Remote Jobs and Skills Roadmap – Interim Report

As a first step towards a final roadmap, JSA released an interim report, *Towards a Regional, Rural and Remote Jobs and Skills Roadmap* in October 2025, which brings together a range of regional work that helps identify trends in regional labour markets and the skills system.

Key findings include:

- Labour market challenges are more pronounced in regional and remote areas, with these areas generally recording fewer job opportunities, higher unemployment, lower educational attainment levels and difficulties in attracting suitable workers.
- Despite recruitment outcomes improving more recently, regional Australia has fewer applicants per vacancy, fewer qualified applicants and lower fill rates than capital cities.
- Australia's higher education system is not currently meeting skills needs in regional and remote areas due to a range of factors. Of key significance is that regional universities generally have lower success rates and higher attrition rates than the national average.
- VET is more likely to be the highest level of educational attainment in regional and remotes areas. However, there are many barriers and challenges with the provision and accessibility of VET in regional areas. These include less access to registered training organisations and less variation in approved training products compared to major cities.

## A Regional, Rural and Remote Jobs and Skills Roadmap

The interim report lays the groundwork for the development of a Regional Rural and Remote Jobs and Skills Roadmap, particularly as a basis for effective engagement with a range of key stakeholders.

Four broad draft objectives of the Regional, Rural and Remote Jobs and Skills Roadmap:



JSA is currently progressing work on finalising the Roadmap, with a final report expected in the second half of 2025.

### Further information



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