



Addendum

Workforce Connections: Workforce Specialist Project Framework

Date of Issue: 9 January 2023

The Workforce Connections: Workforce Specialist Project Framework (the Framework) was developed iteratively from September 2021 and published on 22 February 2022. All references to the department or the government, including policies, relate to the arrangements that were in place at the time of publication.

The purpose of this addendum is to provide the following updates prior to a full review of the Framework:

Additional priority areas of focus have been identified for the Workforce Specialists initiative.

First Nations people

The Australian Government has a firm commitment to strengthening economic and job opportunities for First Nations people and communities. This includes encouraging all employers to bolster their First Nations workforces and supporting inclusive growth for Indigenous-owned businesses.

The Workforce Specialists initiative will place a strong focus on supporting First Nations people into work.

Other key disadvantaged job seeker groups

Not every Australian has the same opportunities to find and obtain secure, well-paid work. Certain cohorts are at a distinct disadvantage when it comes to joining the workforce, including mature age people, those from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse background, and the long term unemployed.

While demand for workers in the labour market is very high, all efforts must be made to support disadvantaged cohorts to fill vacancies and benefit from the many opportunities available across the economy. Workforce Specialists will be well placed to help make this happen.

Clean energy and emissions reduction

The Government is implementing a range of measures aimed at transforming the economy to being carbon neutral.

The National Reconstruction Fund aims to support the uptake of clean energy and green technologies.

The Powering the Regions Fund will provide direct financial support for measures that improve energy efficiency within existing industries and develop new industries in Regional Australia (including workforce development).

The Government is also supporting 10,000 New Energy Apprentices and the New Energy Skills program.

The Workforce Specialists initiative will seek to leverage the opportunities in this emerging industry (and the investment of many businesses Australia-wide).

Connecting participants with secure and rewarding jobs

The Government is committed to seeing more Australians in good jobs: jobs with security, fair pay and proper protections. By connecting participants to secure, rewarding jobs, they have a pathway to a better life. This benefits them, their families, the businesses that employ them, and the rest of the Australian economy.

Workforce Specialists projects, should prioritise placing participants into secure, rewarding jobs. Not just any job. For example, this could include having performance milestones linked to full-time work.

These updates will be considered as part of the next review of the Framework.

End of Addendum