WA Workforce Strategy 2026-2030

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Strategic response for the regions

The State's regions are critical to Western Australia's diversifying economy, with major investments in infrastructure, clean energy, defence, manufacturing, agriculture and food, and tourism and hospitality creating significant opportunities for long-term growth and prosperity.

As part of the Seven Cities strategy, Bunbury, Albany, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Broome, Karratha and Port Hedland will play an increasingly important role in supporting the development of industry throughout regional WA.

Delivering on the State Government's Made in WA agenda and lifting productivity across the economy will require a significant expansion of skilled workers in WA's regions.

Building the workforce needed to support this growth will require continued investment in regional skills and training, ensuring local industries have access to the workers they need to meet future demand.

Training and workforce participation

Nearly a third of **publicly funded training** in WA is delivered to people living in the regions[1]

61% **regional participation** in the labour market[2]

8,470 **apprentices** in training in regional areas 2025[2]

4% **unemployment rate**[2]

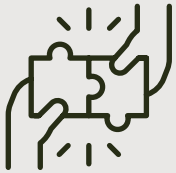
4,378 **trainees** in training in regional areas 2025[2]

8% **youth unemployment rate** (15-24 years old)[2]

83% of publicly funded training in the regions delivered by **TAFE colleges**[2]

[1]WA Government (2025) *VET Provider Collection*, unpublished
[2]Department of Training and Workforce Development (2026) *Annual Report 2025-26*
[3]ABS (September 2026) Labour Force Survey - Annual Average

Workforce enablers



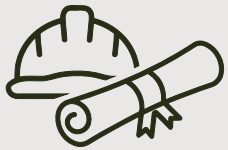
sharing training facilities and infrastructure



expanding regional training delivery



increasing the range of training programs in regional and remote areas



strengthening TAFE and university partnerships



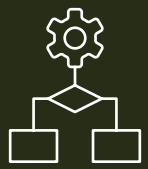
providing employer incentives to attract and retain workers



increasing housing availability

Targeted actions to grow workforce

The WA Workforce Strategy will support a skilled and sustainable regional workforce by aligning workforce planning with local priorities, strengthening pathways from education and training into employment and growing regional apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities to ensure the regions have access to the skilled workers needed.



Action 38: Enhance regional workforce planning to drive regional education, training and workforce development opportunities aligned to local industry priorities and economic development objectives



Action 39: Expand partnerships between TAFEs, universities, industry and regional stakeholders to strengthen workforce pathways for regional students (embedded in career pathways and promotions)



Action 40: Leverage government infrastructure investment to grow regional apprenticeships and traineeships (embedded in key strategy 2)