



# Regional Employment Trials

Recognising that some regions face challenges in terms of employment opportunities and growth, the Australian Government has introduced the Regional Employment Trials (RET) program in 10 disadvantaged regions.

A Local Employment Initiative Fund of \$10 million is available, providing grants of between \$7,500 and \$200,000 to local stakeholders in the 10 regions for employment related projects.

Regional Development Australia (RDA) committees will play a key role in the identification, assessment and promotion of RET projects to ensure they align with local needs.

Employment Facilitators have been appointed in all 10 regions to work with local stakeholders in developing projects and to advise the local RDA committee on employment matters.

We recommend that you contact your local Employment Facilitator if you have any project ideas.

To ensure a strong connection with employment programs, all projects will also need to partner with at least one eligible employment services provider located within that region.

Examples of projects that could be funded include:

- using mature aged residents and local business leaders in a mentoring program

- preparing job seekers for up-coming infrastructure projects
- work experience projects that provide local employment opportunities.

The trial will also examine how earlier access to the Relocation Assistance to Take up a Job programme can assist eligible job seekers in the 10 trial regions to secure employment.

## Start Date

The program runs from 1 October 2018 and will conclude on 30 June 2021. The program's original end date was extended for one year due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## How can I apply for funding?

Download the Regional Employment Trials Grant Opportunity Guidelines from [www.business.gov.au/assistance/regional-employment-trials](http://www.business.gov.au/assistance/regional-employment-trials)

To contact your local Employment Facilitator, visit the Department's website [www.employment.gov.au/employment-facilitators](http://www.employment.gov.au/employment-facilitators) for contact details.

## How can I participate in a project?

If you're a registered job seeker with a jobactive, ParentsNext or Transition to Work provider within a trial region, speak to your provider about the projects available.

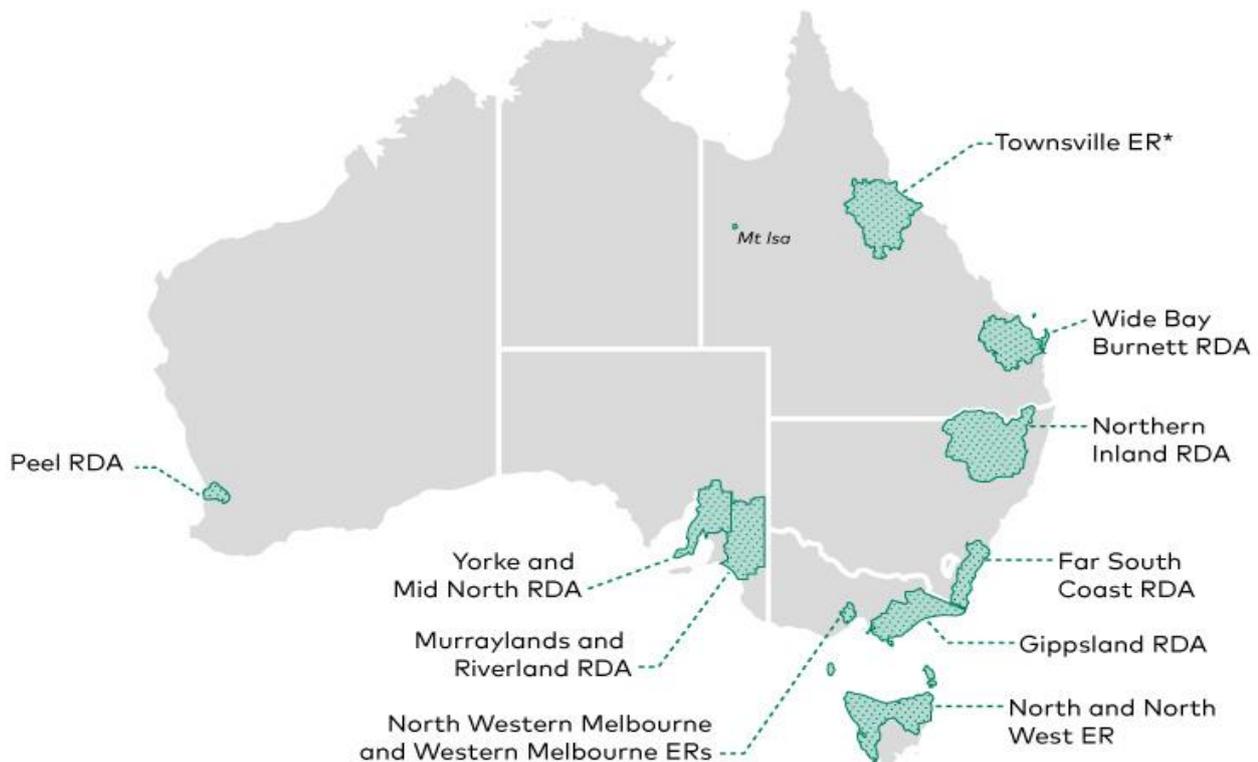
Unemployed people not registered with an employment services provider may also volunteer to participate. Contact your local Employment Facilitator for more details.

## How can I find further information?

Further information on the trial can be found at the Department's website [www.employment.gov.au/ret](http://www.employment.gov.au/ret)

You can also send an email to [ret@dese.gov.au](mailto:ret@dese.gov.au) or contact the department's National Customer Service Line on **1800 805 260**.

## Regional Employment Trial Regions



The following map outlines the 10 selected trial regions. Contact details for the RDA committees can be found at [www.employment.gov.au/ret](http://www.employment.gov.au/ret).

**RDA** = RDA Region

**ER** = Department of Education, Skills and Employment Employment Region (within a selected RDA Region)

\* The Townsville Employment Region includes Mt Isa

For more information visit:

[employment.gov.au/ret](http://www.employment.gov.au/ret)