



**Local Jobs  
Program**

## **Local Jobs Plan**

# **Sydney Greater West New South Wales**

October 2020

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*The Department of Education, Skills and Employment acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of the lands where we work and travel through. We pay our respects to their people, cultures and their Elders past, present and emerging.*

## Introduction

The Local Jobs Program (LJP) will support Australia's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic by bringing together expertise, resources and access to funding at the local level to reskill, upskill and develop employment pathways for job seekers. The LJP will be implemented in 25 regions across Australia, including the Sydney Greater West Employment Region.

Fundamental to LJP is the development of a Local Jobs Plan identifying key priorities that focus on creating employment opportunities, meeting local employer demands and better skilling local job seekers. This interim Plan (the Plan) identifies the key challenges and priorities for the Sydney Greater West Employment Region (ER) as well as strategies to inform the development and delivery of activities to meet these priorities.

The Plan should be considered in conjunction with the interim Jobs Plan for the Sydney South West Employment Region, noting the shared regional priorities for the two ERs. This reflects the very close linkages between the ERs and the strong expectation that the respective Facilitators and Local Jobs and Skills Taskforces will collaborate closely across the broader Western Sydney region.

The Plan will be reviewed when the Employment Facilitator and the Sydney Greater West Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce is in place, and whenever the priorities change (or every six months).

### Key Challenges: Sydney Greater West Employment Region

The key challenges faced by job seekers and employers in the Sydney Greater West ER as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic form the basis for identifying the key priorities for the ER. These challenges include:

- High levels of unmet demand for entry level workers in growth employment areas such as aged and disability care.
- Known and predicted skills gaps in high value sectors characterised by projected growth, including construction, advanced manufacturing, scientific and technical services, health care and tertiary education.
- Significant pandemic employment impacts on migrants and refugees as well as young people, representing both sizable job seeker cohorts within the ER.
- Heightened risk of further entrenchment in labour market disadvantage for traditionally disadvantaged cohorts, including Indigenous job seekers and disengaged young people within the ER.
- Fragmented awareness and delivery mechanisms for the range of available skills training and employment support options designed to aid economic recovery resulting in potentially diminished access and benefit for local job seekers and employers.

**Detailed labour market data for the Sydney Greater West ER can be found at Attachment A**

## **Key Priorities: Sydney Greater West Employment Region**

Against this background, the following **Key Priorities** have been identified for the Sydney Greater West ER. These Key Priorities will be used to design and implement Local Jobs Program activities in the Sydney Greater West ER to effectively and efficiently move job seekers into available employment opportunities.

### **PRIORITY ONE – DISPLACED WORKERS**

Create opportunities for recently displaced workers with transferable skills to transition into areas of employment growth or self-employment.

### **PRIORITY TWO – MEETING LOCAL EMPLOYERS’ WORKFORCE DIVERSITY NEEDS**

Effectively meet the recruitment needs and diversity targets of employers delivering major infrastructure and development projects in the Employment Region, including projects fast-tracked by governments as part of economic recovery measures.

### **PRIORITY THREE – INDIGENOUS AND MIGRANT JOB SEEKERS**

Facilitate pathways for Indigenous job seekers and migrant and refugee job seekers in the Employment Region to build required skills and move into available employment opportunities.

### **PRIORITY FOUR – DISENGAGED YOUTH**

Develop and implement local strategies to support disengaged youth connect with education and training pathways linked to available jobs.

# Strategies for Addressing Key Priorities: Sydney Greater West Employment Region

## *PRIORITY ONE – DISPLACED WORKERS*

**Create opportunities for recently displaced workers with transferable skills to transition into areas of employment growth or self-employment.**

Sydney Greater West is characterised by strong ongoing labour market demand in Health Care and Social Assistance, Construction and Education and Training. Conversely, employment in other industries has been impacted by COVID-19 to varying degrees with noticeable reductions in the Food and Accommodation industry and declines in Retail Trade.

New opportunities are being created through government investment, particularly as part of the Western Sydney City Deal. This is attracting globally significant defence and aerospace activities and is anticipated to drive strong trade, logistics, advanced manufacturing, health, education and science economies in the region.

Knowledge about and access to the range of available training options and pathways to reskill or upskill for available local jobs is not always sufficiently clear and coherent to optimise outcomes for job seekers and employers.

<b>Strategies - short and long term</b>	<b>Stakeholders</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate the range of training options (full qualification, short course, micro-credential) directly linked to current labour demand in the region to provide recently displaced job seekers with a single, streamlined pathway to upskilling and reskilling information.</li> <li>• Develop and implement overarching industry-specific recruitment models in areas of regional skills shortages (eg. Health Care and Social Assistance) that expedite employer and job seeker connections in a way that can be both tailored to individual employer needs and enable employer collaboration across the industry.</li> <li>• Support local job seekers and businesses to build entrepreneurial capability and innovate in response to new and emerging economic opportunities in the region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant Australian Government agencies</li> <li>• Relevant NSW Government agencies</li> <li>• Local Government</li> <li>• Local SME businesses</li> <li>• Education providers and Registered Training Organisations</li> <li>• Employment Services Providers</li> </ul>

***PRIORITY TWO – MEETING LOCAL EMPLOYERS’ WORKFORCE DIVERSITY NEEDS***

**Effectively meet the recruitment needs and diversity targets of employers delivering major infrastructure and development projects in the Employment Region, including projects fast-tracked by governments as part of economic recovery measures.**

The Sydney Greater West Employment Region is the focus of significant infrastructure investment across all three tiers of government. This includes considerable development in the Parramatta CBD as well as major infrastructure projects in the neighbouring Sydney South West ER, including the Western Sydney Airport and development of the surrounding Aerotropolis precinct as part of the Western Sydney City Deal.

Notable additional background relevant to this priority includes the following.

- The NSW Government has committed to invest up to \$100 billion in an infrastructure pipeline to drive employment growth and create direct jobs over the next four years as part of its COVID-19 Recovery Plan.
- From July 2020, the NSW Government has mandated that all major construction projects procured by NSW Government include mandatory targets for the engagement of apprentices, young people under 25, learning workers, women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

<b>Strategies - short and long term</b>	<b>Stakeholders</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a regional register of current and pending infrastructure and development projects to identify recruitment needs, required skills and timelines.</li> <li>• Undertake a skills mapping exercise to align identified skills in demand with the skills profiles of job seeker caseloads in the region.</li> <li>• Develop and deliver recruitment solutions informed by regional skills mapping. These may include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ direct recruitment</li> <li>○ short course upskilling to support skills transferability into the construction industry</li> <li>○ pre-employment programs comprising employability and industry specific skills training as preparation for entry level traineeships.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant Australian Government agencies</li> <li>• Relevant NSW Government agencies</li> <li>• Local Government</li> <li>• Principal contractors delivering major infrastructure projects in the ER</li> <li>• Registered Training Organisations</li> <li>• Employment Services Providers</li> </ul>

### ***PRIORITY THREE – INDIGENOUS AND MIGRANT JOB SEEKERS***

**Facilitate pathways for significant job seeker cohorts in the Employment Region, including Indigenous job seekers and migrant and refugee job seekers, to build required skills and move into available employment opportunities**

The Sydney Greater West Employment Region is characterised by high levels of CALD job seekers as well as concentrations of Indigenous job seekers, reflecting the respective concentrations of both cohorts within the broader population in the ER. In particular, there are high Indigenous populations in the areas of Blacktown, Mount Drutt and Penrith.

Comparatively higher rates and longer periods of unemployment are typical of both cohorts with the impact of COVID-19 likely to amplify this labour market disadvantage.

<b>Strategies - short and long term</b>	<b>Stakeholders</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Design and deliver a promotional campaign targeting local employers to highlight the benefits of workforce diversity and the range of available resources (government, community) to support the recruitment and retention of diverse job seekers.</li><li>• Collate a consolidated register of potential collaboration opportunities with employers and industry in high growth areas in the context of workforce diversity goals.</li><li>• Facilitate the development and delivery of employer bespoke training and recruitment pathways that draw on the full range of available programs and services to support Indigenous and migrant and refugee job seekers.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relevant Australian Government agencies</li><li>• Relevant NSW Government agencies</li><li>• Local Government</li><li>• Indigenous community</li><li>• Indigenous community organisations and services providers</li><li>• Migrant and refugee services providers and community organisations</li><li>• Education providers and Registered Training Organisations</li><li>• Employment Services Providers</li><li>• Employers</li></ul>

#### ***PRIORITY FOUR – DISENGAGED YOUTH***

**Develop and implement local strategies to support disengaged youth connect with education and training pathways linked to available jobs.**

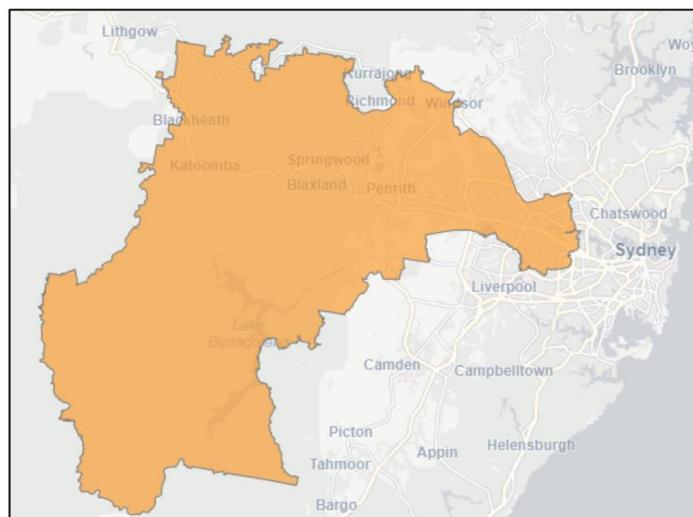
The Sydney Greater West ER is characterised by comparatively high levels of youth unemployment which have been exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19.

The ER also features comparatively high levels of youth disengagement where, on the basis of latest available data, 9.2 per cent of young people in the Sydney Greater West ER are not studying or looking for work compared to 7.7 per cent for NSW overall.

<b>Strategies - short and long term</b>	<b>Stakeholders</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop a consolidated picture of locally available youth services, programs and initiatives to effectively inform the streamlined design of potential education, training and employment pathways that will address local needs.</li><li>• Design and deliver industry-specific preparatory programs to support young people to engage with and develop required capability to take up apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities in growth areas.</li><li>• Identify opportunities and create skills development pathways aligned with growth economies to support youth entrepreneurship.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relevant Australian Government agencies</li><li>• Relevant NSW Government agencies</li><li>• Local Government</li><li>• Youth Services and Youth Organisations</li><li>• Education providers and Registered Training Organisations</li><li>• Employment Services Providers</li></ul>

# The Sydney Greater West Employment Region in Context

The Sydney Greater West Employment Region (ER) is a large, diverse region that includes the Blue Mountains in the north-west, the Nepean-Penrith district and the towns of Windsor, Richmond with surrounding semi-rural localities. Centrally located within the ER are the suburbs of St Marys, Blacktown, Quakers Hill, Seven Hills, Rooty Hill and Doonside. Further east lies Parramatta City and the surrounding suburbs of Auburn, Merrylands, Lidcombe and Westmead.



The ER experienced strong percentage growth in population between June 2018 and June 2019 at 2.0 per cent compared to 1.4 per cent for NSW overall. The Parramatta and Cumberland Local Government Areas (LGA) represent the most populous centre within the ER at 498,700 while significant population centres also exist in the Blacktown LGA at 258,200 and the Penrith LGA at 210,700.

The ER is characterised by high levels of CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse background) people, particularly in the Parramatta, Cumberland and Blacktown LGAs. Data from the 2016 Census indicates that, in the Parramatta LGA, around half of the population was born overseas and around 52 per cent spoke a language other than English. The ER also features comparatively high levels of youth within the overall population and comprises pockets of high Indigenous populations in the Blacktown and Penrith LGAs.

Parramatta operates as a major business district within the ER, serving as a hub for financial, legal, medical, education and professional services. As the second largest employment location in Sydney, Parramatta is often referred to as Sydney's second CBD. The ER also has ready access to a range of tertiary education facilities, including the University of Western Sydney at Parramatta and Penrith, numerous TAFE campuses and an extensive range of private training colleges.

The ER is well serviced by public transport, particularly in the major employment centres of Blacktown, Parramatta and Penrith. Both Blacktown and Parramatta have large transport interchanges enabling commuters to access labour markets across the broader Sydney metropolitan area. Transport difficulties are experienced by some residents in outer western Sydney, particularly in the many smaller suburbs surrounding Mt Druitt where bus routes to train stations and major centres are more limited. Transport to industrial areas within and just outside the region can also be problematic.

## Some Major Employers in Sydney Greater West

- NSW Government Western Sydney Area Health Service, including Westmead Hospital which serves as the principal referral hospital for Western Sydney. Other major hospitals include Blacktown Hospital, Mount Druitt Hospital and Nepean Hospital
- Local Government, including Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Parramatta, Penrith, Hawkesbury and Cumberland Councils.
- Major shopping centres, including Westfield Parramatta, Westfield Penrith, Westfield Mount Druitt and Westpoint Shopping Centre Blacktown
- Educational institutions, including schools, TAFE campuses and two campuses of the University of Western Sydney (Parramatta and Penrith)
- Numerous residential aged care homes operated by major providers such as Anglicare, BaptistCare, HammondCare and St Vincent's Aged Care

## Some Major Infrastructure and Development Projects in Sydney Greater West

- **The Western Sydney City Deal** involves investment by Commonwealth, NSW and Local Government (including Blue Mountains and Penrith Councils) across 38 commitments. This includes a strong focus on jobs creation and skills development linked to the Aerotropolis and agribusiness precinct attached to Western Sydney Airport.
- **The Parramatta Light Rail Project** will connect Westmead to Carlingford via the Parramatta CBD. Construction is currently underway by CPB Contractors and Downer with an anticipated completion date of 2023.
- **The Parramatta Square** development, involving construction of four towers of premium grade office and retail space, is currently under construction and, as Australia's biggest office tower, expected to accommodate up to 35,000 once operational from 2022.
- **Westmead Redevelopment Stage 1** is a \$1 billion project involving redevelopment of the Children's Hospital and significant refurbishment of the Westmead Hospital, including creation of a Central Acute Services Building with education, training and research facilities.
- **The Nepean Hospital Upgrade**, involving a \$1 billion investment including construction of a 14 storey tower, is currently underway with an anticipated completion date of late 2021.
- **Sydney Metro West Line** will provide transport connections between Greater Parramatta and the Sydney CBD. Construction is scheduled to commence in late 2020 and it is expected the project will generate up to 14,000 jobs during construction.
- **Australian Catholic University** will have a fully operational, permanent campus precinct in Blacktown by 2024. Construction has commenced at the Main Street site with the expectation that initial student intakes will start from 2021.
- **Parramatta Engineering Innovation Hub**, under the joint management of Western Sydney University and the University of NSW, will be established in the Parramatta CBD. Construction of the 19-storey education hub, which is expected to create 1000 construction jobs and around 1300 ongoing jobs, will commence from 2021.
- **A New Powerhouse Museum** will be established in the Parramatta CBD which, as Western Sydney's first cultural institution, is expected to welcome up to 2 million visitors a year.

## Some Key Local Stakeholders in Sydney Greater West

NSW State Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training Services NSW</li> <li>• Transport NSW</li> <li>• Western Parkland City Authority</li> <li>• Greater Sydney Commission</li> </ul>	
Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blue Mountains City Council</li> <li>• Blacktown City Council</li> <li>• Cumberland City Council</li> <li>• Hawkesbury City Council</li> <li>• Parramatta City Council</li> <li>• Penrith City Council</li> </ul>	
Employers and Industry Bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Western Sydney Business Chamber</li> <li>• Australian Industry Group Western Sydney</li> <li>• Western Sydney Business Connections</li> <li>• Industry Capability Network</li> <li>• Principal Contractors delivering major infrastructure projects in the region</li> </ul>	
Education and Training Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Western Sydney University</li> <li>• TAFE NSW comprising nine campuses</li> <li>• Department of Education and Training</li> </ul>	
Indigenous and Community Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YARPA NSW Indigenous Employment and Business Hub</li> <li>• Tharawal Aboriginal Land Council</li> <li>• Metro Assist (formerly Metro Migrant Resource Centre)</li> <li>• CORE Multicultural Communities</li> </ul>	
Employment Services Providers	jobactive	APM Employment Services Global Skills Matchworks MAX Employment Sarina Russo Job Access WISE Employment
	Transition to Work	MTC Australia Schools Industry Partnership yourtown
	ParentsNext	Mission Australia OCTEC Olympus Solutions Wesley Mission MAX Solutions

# Attachment A: Labour Market Update

## September 2020<sup>1</sup>

Labour market conditions in the Sydney Greater West region have been solid over the last five years, with employment growth averaging 2.4 per cent over the period (above the 1.6 per cent recorded for New South Wales), and the unemployment rate averaging 5.6 per cent (compared with 5.0 per cent for the State). ABS Labour Force Survey regional estimates show that labour market conditions have deteriorated in the Sydney Greater West region since March 2020, when Australia recorded its 100<sup>th</sup> case of COVID-19.

### Selected ABS Labour Force Survey indicators, August 2020

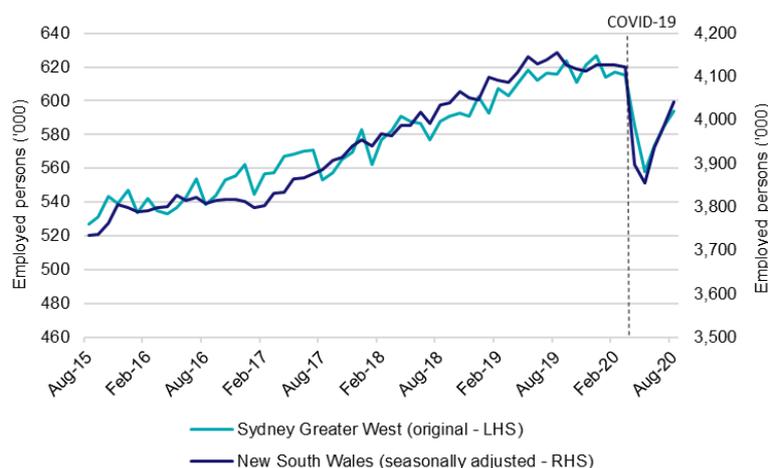
	Employment			Unemployment			Unemployment rate		Participation rate	
	Aug-20	Change since Mar-20		Aug-20	Change since Mar-20		Aug-20	Change since Mar-20	Aug-20	Change since Mar-20
	('000)	('000)	(%)	('000)	('000)	(%)	(%)	(% pts)	(%)	(% pts)
Sydney Greater West	593.6	-21.6	-3.5	48.9	12.1	32.9	7.6	2.0	66.1	-1.2
New South Wales	4,042.4	-80.7	-2.0	288.4	77.9	37.0	6.7	1.8	65.2	-0.1
Australia	12,583.4	-413.6	-3.2	921.8	206.0	28.8	6.8	1.6	64.8	-1.1

Source: Data for Sydney Greater West are from ABS, Labour Force, Australia, August 2020, original estimates. Data for New South Wales and Australia are from ABS, Labour Force, Australia, August 2020, seasonally adjusted estimates.

### Employment

- There were 593,600 employed people in the Sydney Greater West region in August 2020
- The number of employed people has fallen by 21,600 (or 3.5 per cent) between March and August 2020.

#### Employed persons aged 15 and over (five years to August 2020)



Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, August 2020

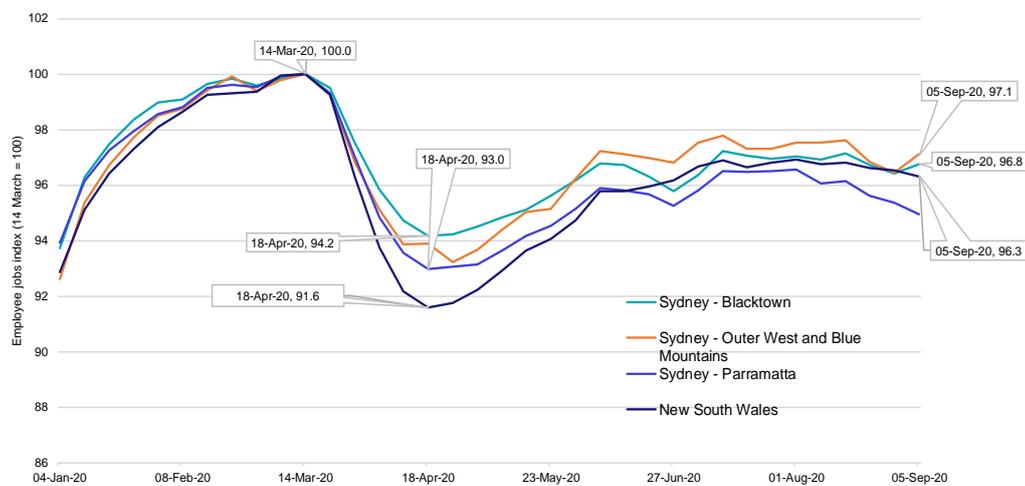
<sup>1</sup> Throughout this labour market update, unless otherwise stated, data are for the combination of the SA4 areas Sydney – South West and Sydney – Outer South West. This excludes nearly a fifth of the Employment Region’s population who live in Bankstown, which is part of the ABS Canterbury Bankstown area. Data are the latest available at the time of writing. Note that regional monthly ABS Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates are highly volatile and should be viewed with extreme caution.

## ABS weekly payroll data

The ABS weekly payroll data show that between 14 March 2020 and 5 September 2020:

- The number of employee jobs decreased in the SA4s of Sydney - Blacktown (down by 3.2 per cent), Sydney - Outer West and Blue Mountains (down by 2.9 per cent) and Sydney - Parramatta (down by 5.1 per cent). This compares with a 3.7 per cent decline for New South Wales.
- Over the month to 5 September, employee jobs declined by 0.2 per cent in the SA4 of Sydney - Blacktown, by 0.4 per cent in Sydney - Outer West and Blue Mountains and by 1.2 per cent in Sydney - Parramatta. This compares with a 0.5 per cent fall in New South Wales over the same period.

**Employee jobs 4 January to 5 September (14 March 2020 = 100)**



Source: ABS, Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages, Week ending 5 September 2020. Latest available data at the SA4 level are for the week ending 5 September 2020.

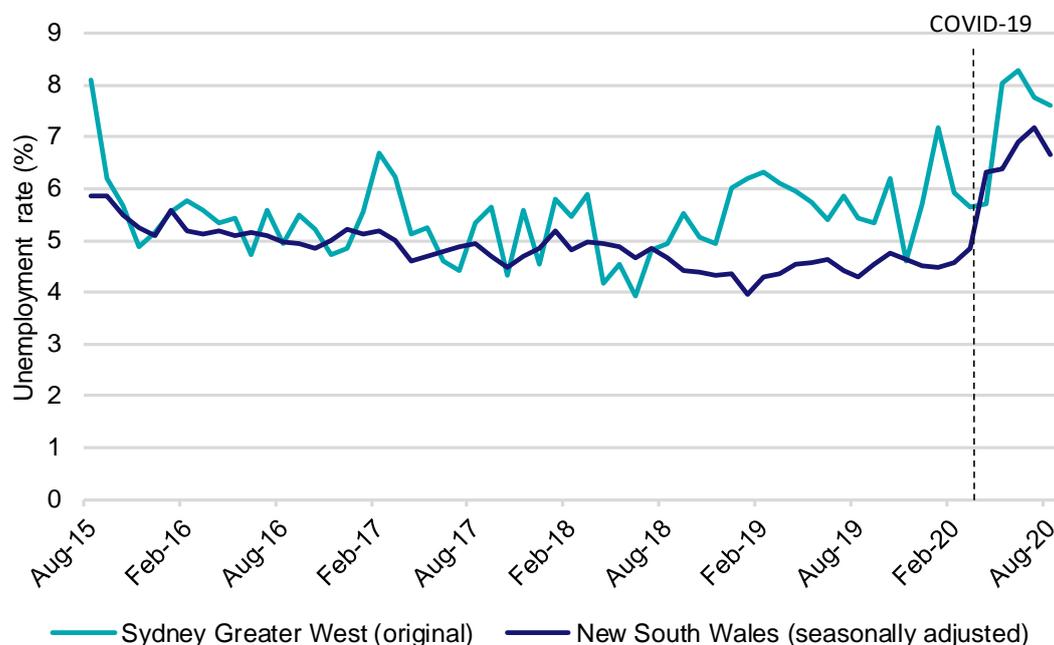
## Participation rate

- The Sydney Greater West participation rate decreased by 1.2 percentage points between March and August 2020, to stand at 66.1 per cent, but remains above both the state and national rates (of 65.2 per cent and 64.8 per cent respectively)
- The share of the adult population aged 55 and over in the region is low for the state, at 27.7 per cent, compared with 34.7 per cent for New South Wales.

## Unemployment

- The unemployment rate in Sydney Greater West stood at 7.6 per cent in August 2020, up by 2.0 percentage points since March 2020, and is well above the 6.7 per cent recorded for New South Wales.

Unemployment rate time series (5 years to August 2020)



Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, August 2020

Considerable labour market disparity exists within the Sydney Greater West Employment Region. Latest available *Small Area Labour Markets* data show that, in the March quarter 2020, the unemployment rate in the Sydney Greater West region ranged from just 1.3 per cent in the Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) of Parklea – Kellyville Ridge, to 18.3 per cent in the SA2 of Bidwill – Hebersham - Emerton.<sup>2</sup>

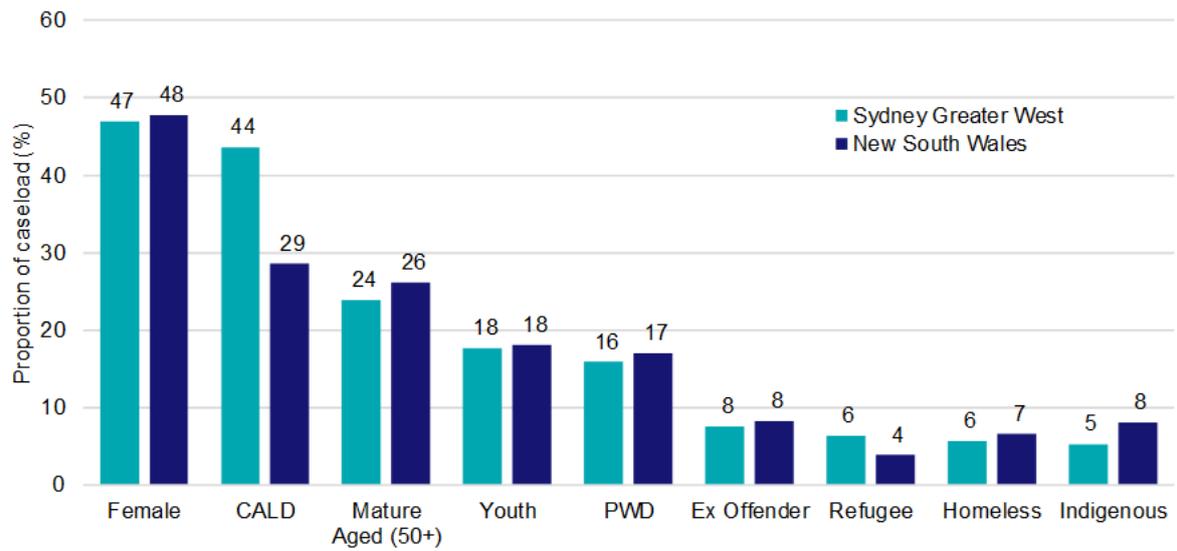
## Employment services caseload characteristics

New data for the jobactive and New Employment Services Trial (NEST) regions have been released. As at 30 September 2020

- The caseload in the Sydney Greater West Employment Region increased from 26,176 people in March 2020 to 70,404 in September 2020, a rise of 169 per cent.
- This compares with an increase of 148 per cent for New South Wales and 97 per cent for Australia.
- The caseload in the region has substantially higher proportions of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) people, compared with New South Wales.

<sup>2</sup> Data for SA2s are sourced from the National Skills Commission, *Small Area Labour Markets*, March quarter 2020, smoothed estimates. Labour market data at the regional level can display significant variability and should be viewed with caution.

## Employment services caseload for selected cohorts (September 2020)



Source: Department of Education, Skills and Employment, administrative data, September 2020. PWD = Persons with disability. CALD = Culturally and Linguistically Diverse. Note that data for NSW exclude participants in the New Employment Services Trial (NEST) in the Mid North Coast Employment Region.

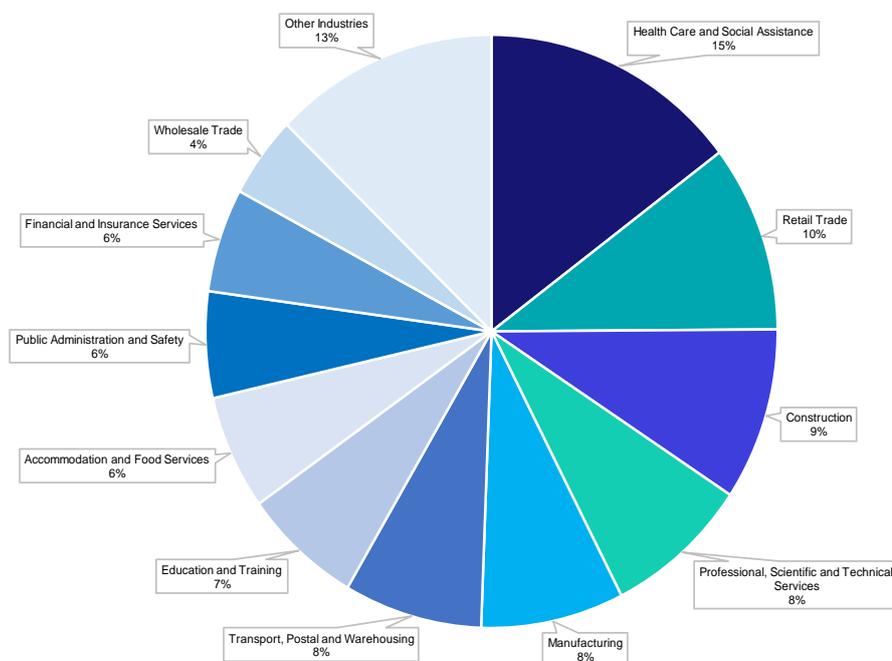
## Income Support

In July 2020, the proportion of the working age (15-64 years) population on income support in Sydney Greater West stood at 15.4 per cent, which is on par with the 15.3 per cent recorded in New South Wales and the 16.3 per cent recorded nationally.

## Industry profile<sup>3</sup>

As at August 2020, the largest employing industries in Sydney Greater West were Health Care Assistance; Retail Trade; and Construction. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, Manufacturing, and Transport, Postal and Warehousing were also large industries, each with an employment share of 8 per cent

**Share of employment by industry in Greater Sydney West, August quarter 2020**



Source: ABS Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, August 2020. "Other Industries" includes: Administrative and Support Services; Arts and Recreation Services; Administrative and Support Services; Mining; Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services; Other Services; Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services; and Information Media and Telecommunications.

### Employment trends (for the selected industries)

Over the last five years, employment in the Sydney Greater West region has

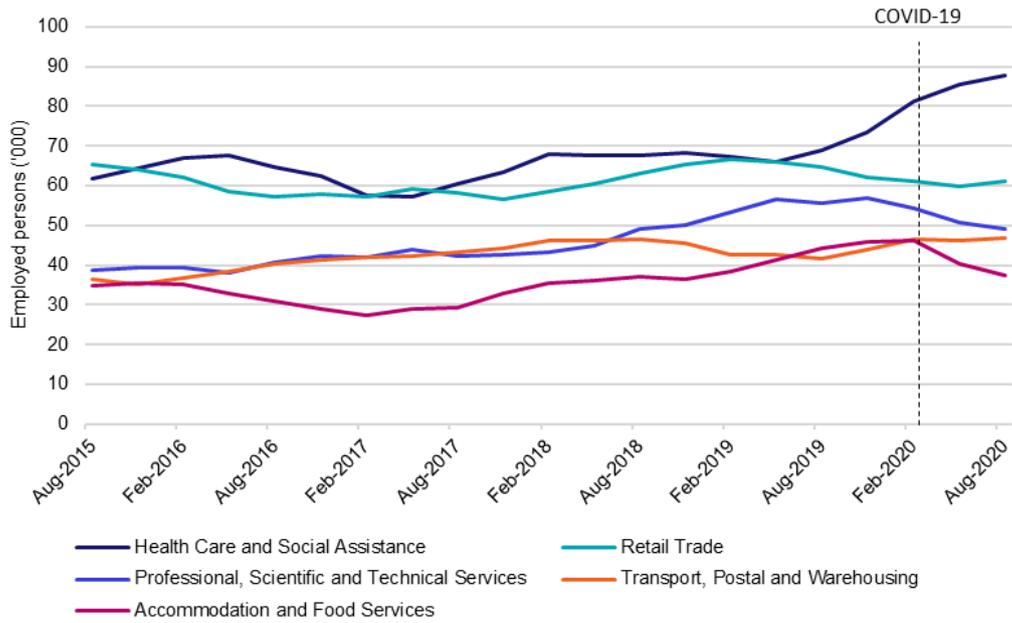
- Increased in the Health Care and Social Assistance; Construction; and Transport, Postal and Warehousing industries
- Decreased slightly in the Retail Trade industry.

After rising steadily from late 2017, employment in Accommodation and Food Services has fallen noticeably due to COVID-19. Employment in Manufacturing declined in 2017 but has been relatively stable since.

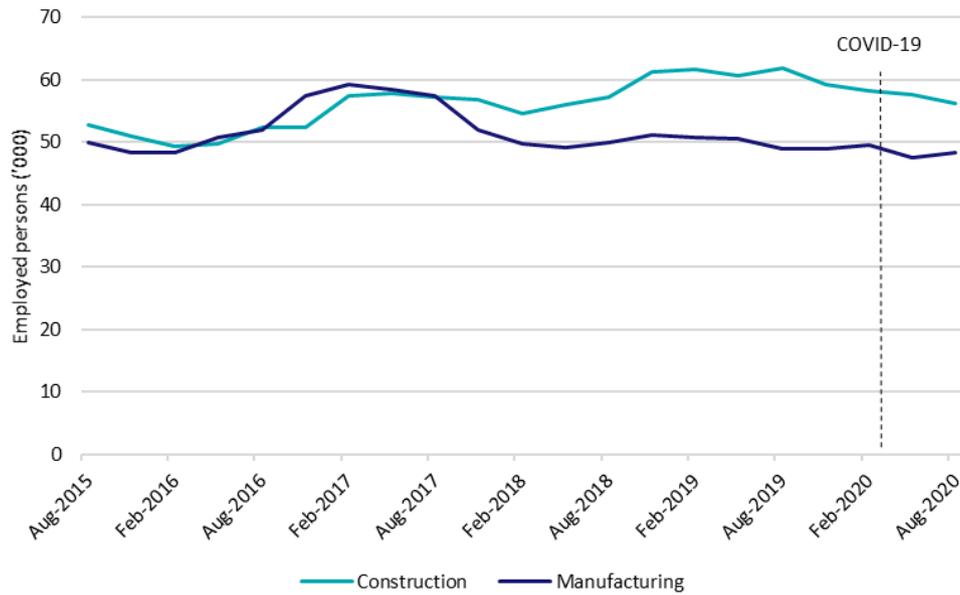
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<sup>3</sup> Regional industry employment data is in four quarter averaged terms, which means it is not responsive enough to pick up the impact of COVID-19. This section is intended to present the more medium-term trends in industry employment for the region.

### Employed persons in selected 'service' industries, five years to August 2020 ('000)



### Employed persons in selected 'producing' industries, five years to August 2020 ('000)

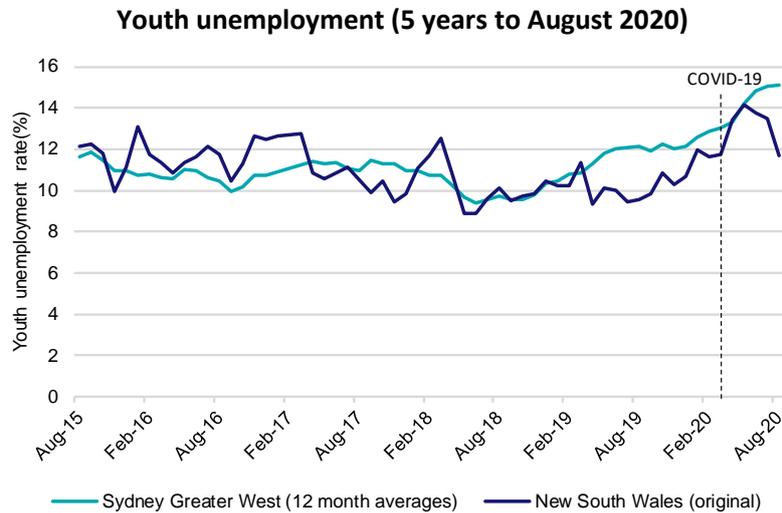


Source: ABS Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, August 2020

## Youth aged 15-24

### Youth unemployment

- The youth unemployment rate in the Sydney Greater West region stood at 15.1 per cent in August 2020, significantly above the 11.7 per cent recorded for New South Wales
- The youth unemployment rate has increased by 2.1 percentage points since March 2020



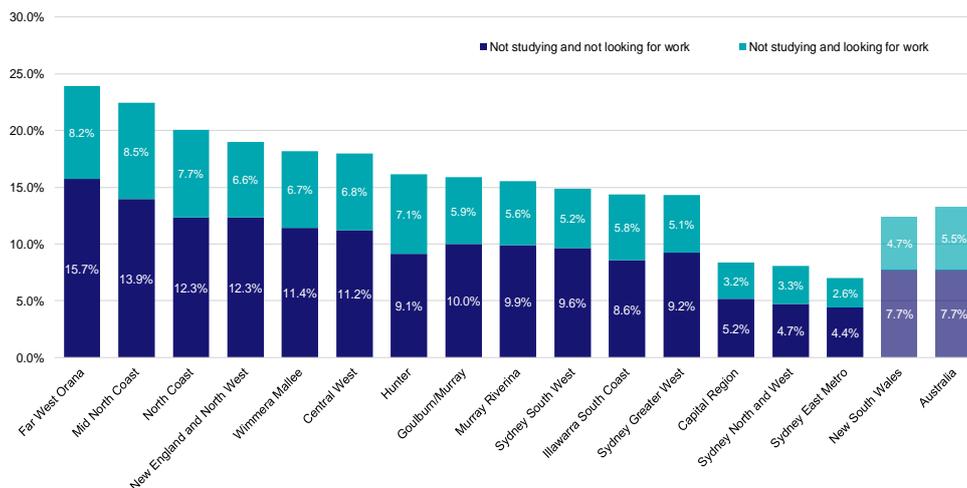
Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, August 2020

### Youth disengagement

Data below are based on 2016 Census for Employment Regions, which is the latest available source for this information.

- The rate of youth disengagement for the Sydney Greater West region was 14.3 per cent compared to 12.4 per cent for New South Wales and 13.2 per cent for Australia.

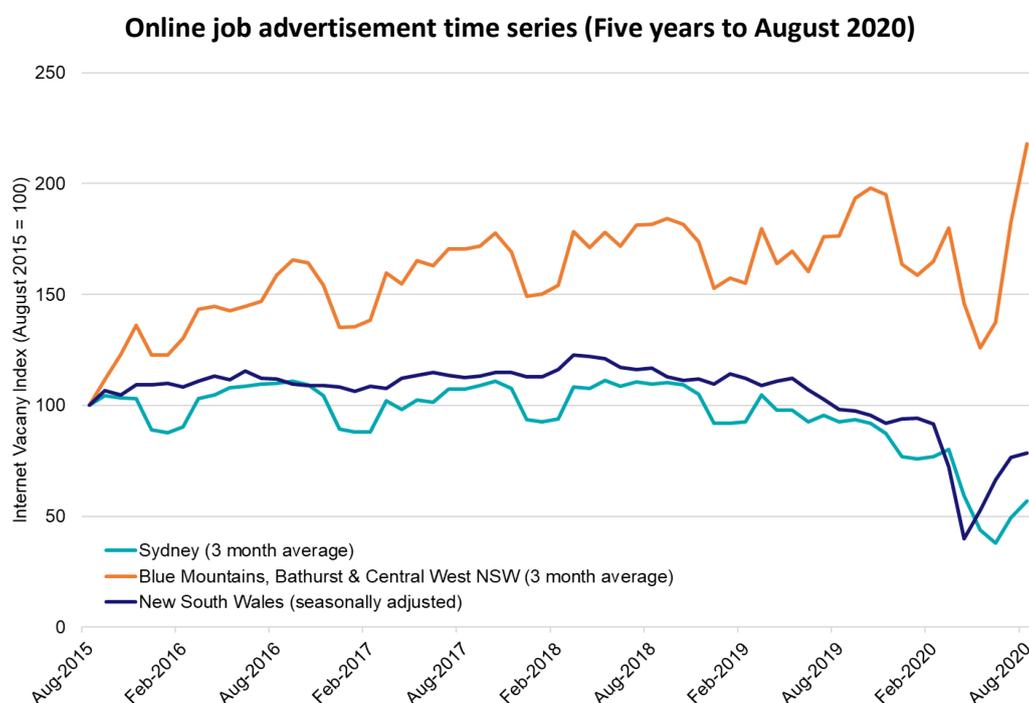
### Young people not studying nor working (18-24 years old)



Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2016. Note: the Goulburn/Murray Employment Region spans the NSW and Victorian border.

## Vacancies and job advertisements

The level of vacancies in the Internet Vacancy Index Sydney and Blue Mountains, Bathurst and Central West NSW regions declined by around 42 per cent over the two months to May 2020, before increasing again to August 2020. While vacancies in the Sydney region remain below pre-COVID levels, vacancies in the Blue Mountains, Bathurst and Central West NSW region are currently at their highest ever levels.



Source: National Skills Commission, Internet Vacancy Index, August 2020. Data for Sydney and Blue Mountains, Bathurst and Central West NSW is a three month moving average, and data for New South Wales is seasonally adjusted; both have been indexed to July 2015.

### Top 10 advertised occupations (August 2020)

ANZSCO Occupation
Registered Nurses
Sales Assistants (General)
General Clerks
Other Miscellaneous Labourers
Aged and Disabled Carers
Early Childhood (Pre-primary School) Teachers
Truck Drivers
Child Carers
Nursing Support and Personal Care Workers
Bar Attendants and Baristas

Source: National Skills Commission, Internet Vacancy Index, August 2020. Raw data are used for analysis. Note: the Sydney and Blue Mountains, Bathurst and Central West region is the best fit from the regions available from the contributing job boards and does not precisely correspond to the Sydney Great West Employment Region.

## **A note on comparing data**

It is important to note that unemployment statistics collected as part of the Labour Force Survey can vary considerably from income support statistics and jobactive caseload numbers.

A person is considered employed by the ABS if they are aged 15 years and over and work for an hour or more during the Labour Force Survey reference week. The ABS also classifies someone as employed if they have taken any kind of leave, or were paid for some or all of the previous four weeks (including via the JobKeeper Payment). In addition, employees who were away from their jobs for less than four weeks without pay but still believed they had a job (i.e. were temporarily stood down) would also be classified as employed.

A person is considered unemployed by the ABS if they are not employed, have actively looked for work at some time in the last four weeks and are currently available for work.