

Funding Ceased for South Australian Career Services

3 July 2018

The Career Development Association of Australia is disappointed following the announcement that funding for the State Government's Career Services projects has ceased as of June 30.

The 12 services based in locations such as Mount Gambier, Whyalla, Murray Bridge, the Barossa Valley, Port Augusta and the Riverland provided free qualified career support to the public.

While it is confirmed the Mount Gambier service is closing, the outcome for the other regions is still unknown, with some maintaining limited services as part of the Disability Workforce Hubs.

Former CDAA Board Member Helen Strickland, who helped develop the first service in Mount Gambier, said it was sad to see the end of the concept.

"The service started with a clear vision. To be a service for everyone in the region of any age and at any stage in their career," Ms Strickland said.

"The evidence base has always been strong – the service achieved outcomes. Over the 12 years, the service has seen thousands of people achieve high employment and training outcomes."

The service model has been recognised nationally by CDAA as a model of best practice and South Australia has had a policy base envied by other states.

While it is disappointing to see these services ending, CDAA is pleased the State Government is focussed on providing additional work-based apprenticeships and traineeships over the next four years.

CDAA National Manager Peter Mansfield said he hopes the Government will consider career support as part of this plan, to ensure high completion rates.

"Professional career practitioners provide individualised advice based on assessment tools to determine skills and interest," he said.

"This ensures clients are put on the right track when making decisions about their future study and careers."

The Career Development Association of Australia (CDAA) commenced as the Australian Association of Career Counsellors in 1989, and is Australia's largest cross-sectoral association of career development professionals working in a diverse range of roles, delivering services in industry, government, education, employment programs and community organisations. The primary purpose of the CDAA is to support its members by leading, building and growing the career development profession.

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