

MEDIA RELEASE

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New Youth Employment Consortium to get 5,000 unemployed youth into work

Jobfind is proud to announce the creation of a new Youth Employment Consortium, pledging to get 5,000 unemployed young people into jobs.

Jobfind has been the force behind the creation of a new consortium of high-profile employers, educators and not-for-profits pledging to join together to defeat youth unemployment. On International Youth Day it is important to recognise that if you are an Australian under 25 you are more than twice as likely to be unemployed¹. Being unemployed when you are young has serious consequences for long term wages, health, social exclusion and even for the next generation².

The combined expertise of Jobfind's Youth Employment Consortium will deliver training, support, apprenticeships, and real job opportunities to young unemployed Australians. Our partners are proactive organisations that are willing to take ownership of the problem and work collaboratively to find solutions. We are pleased to announce our partners include:

Australian Retailers Association, Angus Knight Institute, Future Minds Network, Ladder, MAS National, MEGT, Mission Engage, Programmed, Real Futures, Squad, TAFE Directors Australia, WPC Group, Youth Development Foundation and Youth Junction Inc.

AngusKnight CEO, Cameron Judson said *"Youth unemployment is Australia's most serious social and economic challenge and Jobfind's Youth Employment Consortium aims to deliver real change by combining the forces of many different businesses to focus on the issue of youth engagement, skills and employment. As a business, our strength has been built on the exponential power of the partnerships we build with experts in their field. With Jobfind CEO, Karena Newland, I am really excited about how we together deliver real hope, skills and employment outcomes for young people"*

Australian Retailers Association CEO Paul Zahra said *"The retail industry employs more than 1.2 million people which accounts for 10 per cent of the entire Australian workforce. We employ more young people than most other industries, providing most Australians with their first employment"*

¹ June 2021 ABS figures show general unemployment at 4.9% and youth unemployment at 10.2%

² Morz and Savage (2006) show that a six-month unemployment period at the age of 22 leads to lower hourly wages of about 8% at the age of 23. See also Bacher et al., 2016; Bartley, 1994; Kuhn et al., 2009; McKee-Ryan et al., 2005; Schaufeli, 1997

experience. COVID-19 and the associated lockdowns have impacted young workers particularly hard so we applaud this new initiative which will help get more young Australians back into jobs."

Assistant Minister for Youth and Employment Services, The Hon Luke Howarth said *"I am heartened to see grass roots initiatives like Jobfind's Youth Employment Consortium tackling youth unemployment. I hope to see you reaching the goal of 5,000 young unemployed into work."*

2021 Young Australian of the Year Finalist and CEO of Future Minds Network, Nathaniel Diong joins Jobfind's Youth Employment Consortium as our first Youth Ambassador to work in concert with our consortium partners to improve opportunities and collaboration in addressing youth employment and skills training issues.

Jobfind Youth Employment Consortium Ambassador Nathaniel Diong comments: *"85% of the jobs young people will work at in 2030 don't even exist yet. Above all, we need to equip young people with the skills to adapt to uncertainty - and we can do that through entrepreneurship education. We're excited to be working with Jobfind and the consortium to tackle youth unemployment head-on for young people across Australia."*

Jobfind is a member of the Angus Knight Group.

For any media enquiries and spokespeople request including Karena Newland
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Jobfind acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia and recognises their connection to land, water and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to elders both past and present.

EDITORS' NOTES

ABOUT JOBFIND

Jobfind was established in 1998 and is a leading provider of employment, recruitment and post-employment services having placed and supported more than half a million Australians. Nationwide, with significant ties to Melbourne from the North of the City to the Mornington Peninsula, we are proud of 4 and 5-star ratings and our commitment to jobactive, DES and Parents Next customers.

At Jobfind, we deliver life changing opportunities for individuals and committed workers for employers. Our highly dedicated staff and exceptional service motto reflects our commitment to quality for more than 20 years, two decades of experience helping the hardest to help back into work. Jobfind is proudly part of the Angus Knight Group.

ABOUT THE ANGUS KNIGHT GROUP

Now in its 30th year, AngusKnight Pty Ltd (AK) develops individuals, communities, and organisations via employment, training and workforce solutions. Servicing diverse markets within the Government, corporate, indigenous and community sectors, AK combines customer-focused insights with productivity prowess to empower clients to meet their full potential – be it personal, commercial or philanthropic. Operating in over 200 locations in Australia and the UK, AK has helped more than 1 million people into work. AngusKnight is 100% Australian-owned and our partnership business model is unique and focuses on collaborations with national and local organisations (mainly not-for-profits). AK is the holding company of 13 businesses which employ directly, and through our partnerships more than 700 people to deliver services in Australia and the UK.

ABOUT ARA

The Australian Retailers Association (ARA) is Australia's oldest, largest and most diverse retail body, representing a \$360bn sector which employs one in ten Australians. As Australia's leading retail representative group, the ARA informs, advocates, educates, protects and unifies around 7500 independent, national and international retail members with more than 100,000 retail shop fronts.

ABOUT ANGUS KNIGHT INSTITUTE (AKI)

AKI is the training and education division of the Angus Knight Group (AKG). Angus Knight Institute owns four of Australia's leading Registered Training Organisations providing Certificate and Diploma courses in face-to-face and online environments across a wide cross section of industries.

Our RTOs include:

- Core Industry Training (RTO 91712)
- Jigsaw Training Group (RTO 32423)
- Learning Sphere (RTO 91718)
- Angus Knight Learning (RTO 41046)

Our links to our national employment division and relationships with thousands of Australian businesses provides us with a unique advantage that links training with potential employers opening up a range of placement and employment prospects for our students.

ABOUT FUTURE MINDS NETWORK

FMN is a global community of the world's most curious, passionate and driven people that want to make an impact. FMN was founded on the belief that young people can achieve far more than we think, and if we work in tandem with young people, we can unlock the full potential of humanity to solve the world's toughest problems. Prior to FMN, Nathaniel learnt from the best start-up accelerators in Australia, consulted for non-for-profits and advised high-performing teenpreneurs across the globe.

ABOUT LADDER

Ladder is a leader in youth mentoring and engagement, providing specialist programs and vital opportunities to young people in communities across Australia.

We deliver programs to young people, 16 – 25, that improve outcomes across key life domains including self-efficacy, community connection, health and wellbeing, independent living skills and education, employment, and training (EET). Ladder’s approach to working with young people is to focus on their strengths and what they can achieve, moving away from the cycle of disadvantage and negativity they may have experienced in their lives. Our *Advantaged Thinking* philosophy allows young people to develop their self-confidence, reclaim their identity and achieve their self-identified goals.

ABOUT MAS

Mas is a not-for-profit organisation supporting employment, development and growth for individuals, employers, and communities across Australia.

With extensive infrastructure, staff, networks, and partnerships across the country, they maintain a proud track record of providing workforce solutions across diverse contexts.

As a not-for-profit, MAS’s success has always been associated with a commitment to giving back to the communities they work and live in.

MAS provide services in mentoring, recruitment services, workforce development planning, registration for apprentices and trainees, incentive administration, small business support, workplace health and safety checks, transition services for retrenched workers and Human resource support.

ABOUT MEGT

MEGT is a not-for-profit organisation which has been supporting employers, apprentices, trainees, job seekers and students since 1982. Today, it employs more than 450 staff in every state of Australia, providing a team of local apprenticeship experts who are dedicated to meeting the needs of the communities in which they live and the businesses which operate there.

MEGT’s focus is on helping businesses, apprentices and trainees get the most out of the Australian Apprenticeships program. It’s commitment to quality and ongoing improvement is reflected in their attainment of world-standard qualifications in areas such as data protection, quality management and cyber security.

ABOUT MISSION ENGAGE

Mission Engage works in partnership with industry leaders to provide a deep dive learning experience of what it looks like to be employed. This hands-on practical business experience assists with the challenges young people face when looking for employment. We provide support to people who are disengaged, disadvantaged and who are at risk of long-term unemployment.

ABOUT PROGRAMMED

Programmed is a leading provider of Staffing, Maintenance and Care services across Australia and New Zealand, one of Australia’s top thirty companies by revenue, and a top ten private employer. Our business model is built around our ability to recruit, deploy, manage and maintain a large, directly employed workforce of professional, skilled and semi-skilled staff with a wide range of capabilities from our 100+ branches across metropolitan and regional areas throughout ANZ. Our 30,000+ team members serve more than 10,000 customers every day. Our customers cover all sectors including education, health, infrastructure, manufacturing, utilities, transport and mining.

ABOUT REAL FUTURES

Real Futures is a majority Aboriginal-owned, controlled and managed Supply Nation Certified company. Founded in 2011 by Wendy Yarnold and Brad Carbutt, our original focus was on connecting Indigenous Australians looking for work during the resources boom. We have significantly broadened our scope to encompass all opportunities with all Industry Sectors, and our success has enabled an expansion of our footprint across three states. In 2018 we were appointed as Disability Employment Services providers for Kempsey, Coffs Harbour and Geraldton and surrounding communities, in addition to our delivery of Vocational Training and Employment Centres, CDP and UN Women’s Hub programs.

ABOUT SQUAD

Squad is about people and ensuring their success. For almost 40 years Squad has remained firmly grounded as a non-profit organisation, dedicated to building strong working relationships between business’ and their apprentices and trainees. Squad bridges the gap through mentoring exceptionally trained and resourced employees and supporting business’ through the process.

ABOUT TAFE DIRECTOR AUSTRALIA

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) is the peak national body representing Australia's national network of publicly owned Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institutes and university TAFE divisions. TDA's core business is to support TAFEs in meeting Australia's need for increased productivity, participation, and workforce knowledge and skills. TDA does this, in part, by working with its corporate affiliates such as the Angus Knight Group.

TAFEs also have an important role in meeting community obligations, particularly across regional, rural and remote Australia. TAFEs are committed to creating equal opportunity for all Australians to access the benefits from Australia's economic prosperity, and to enhance social participation and inclusion, irrespective of students' background, education and training aspirations, or career ambitions.

TAFEs are comprehensive educators and trainers, from VET in Schools through to higher education post-graduate qualifications. Of the 28 TDA members, ten TAFEs offer VET and Higher Education qualifications while a further six members are TAFE divisions of dual sector universities. Most Australian states have adopted a one-TAFE model for their state, apart from Victoria and Western Australia that have multiple TAFE institutes.

ABOUT WPC Group

WPC is a leading not-for-profit organisation specialising in employment for apprentices and trainees.

They have been supporting both industry and job seekers with sustainable and meaningful employment since 1982. Currently they employ more than 550 apprentices and trainees through several national programs in Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory.

ABOUT YDF

The Youth Development Foundation is a not-for-profit youth organisation focusing solely on improving the lives of disadvantaged and disengaged youth within our community. Their constitutional objective is to develop and implement programs and strategies that assist local youth become responsible & employment ready members of the community.

They believe that every young person, regardless of their background, history or past deserves the opportunity to grow with non-judgemental support within a safe environment.

YDF can assist with work experience, housing/accommodation, food assistance, becoming job ready, finding secure employment, legal advice, selected job-ready qualification courses, career/study plans & pathways, confidence & motivation, mentoring & support.

ABOUT YOUTH JUNCTION

The Youth Junction Inc creates opportunities for young people of all identities to build resilience and enable them to make a positive contribution to society. We work with and for vulnerable Victorian young people to support choices in education and employment, and the reduction of disadvantage. We identify and advocate around systemic blockages and work to support systemic literacy in young people through a range of collaborative, innovative and integrated service responses. This work includes our current activities but we acknowledge that the needs of this cohort are changing and evolving, and that we will need to evolve with them.