

## Case Study: Employment pathways in New South Wales

**A**s the Australian resource industry transitions from a period of heavy investment to a production phase, it is widely acknowledged that managing evolving labour and skills demands lies in smart collaboration between industry and government.

Responsible for coordinating the New South Wales Government's Workforce Mobility Program, Nanda Almeida works to facilitate the movement of labour to regions in need of skills.

She says involvement in a Newcastle jobseeker forum run by resource industry workforce initiative AMMA Skills Connect, offered the opportunity for government and industry to work towards a common goal.

"Both the AMMA Skills Connect program and the NSW Government's Workforce Mobility Program receive funding from the federal Department of Industry so it made sense to work together to assist jobseekers in Newcastle and surrounding regions," Almeida says.

"There is a common goal to meet in maximising training and employment pathways and we are all working toward it."

The recent forum was the latest in a series organised by AMMA Skills Connect to facilitate direct engagement between local resource employers and jobseekers.

As speakers from resource companies including Shenhua Watermark and service providers Aurizon and Leighton Contractors took to the stage in Newcastle, their presentations to a 200-strong audience were streamed live across the web to jobseekers in Wollongong, Tamworth, Dubbo, Orange, Parkes, and Aubrey.

Almeida and her colleagues were on hand to speak with jobseekers during networking opportunities and make valuable new connections with attending employers.

"The majority of our work lies in addressing skills shortages within the resource and related construction sectors in regions such as the Hunter, New England and Illawarra, and matching jobseekers and retrenched workers with training and employment opportunities," she says.

"The AMMA Skills Connect jobseeker forum was an opportunity to build on our current activities by identifying people who are willing to take up work in another region, building connections with local employers and supporting another industry-government partnership."

Since the forum, Almeida has been busy building relationships with employers and jobseekers at the forum.

"We are in contact with Leighton Contractors and are working together on possible job opportunities," she says.

As Australia's third largest hub of resources employment and rich in natural assets, New South Wales holds the potential to deliver even greater economic and job opportunities for locals.

Managing complex challenges around regional skills shortages and labour mobility through ongoing government and industry cohesion will no doubt serve to meet this end.



### Get involved today

To learn more about AMMA Skills Connect visit [www.amma.org.au](http://www.amma.org.au) or call **1800 627 771**.

This project is supported by the Australian Government through the National Resources Sector Workforce Strategy