



# Southern Employment & Training Network

HUON VALLEY | THE CHANNEL | BRUNY ISLAND

27 October 2023

Stuart Hollingsworth  
Director  
Jobs Tasmania

By email

Dear Stuart

**Re: Submission – Youth Jobs Strategy Discussion Paper on behalf of the Southern Employment & Training Network (SETN)**

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the Youth Jobs Strategy Discussion Paper. We acknowledge the importance and potential of the Youth Jobs Strategy to ensure all young people in Tasmania can access the support they need to participate in work, further education and training.

While Southern Employment & Training Network is in its infancy, we have consulted with employers and young people in our region who have indicated that access to transport, housing and mental health issues pose the most significant barriers to obtaining work or participating in further education and training. The rate of youth disengagement in the Huon Valley in particular is alarming; in 2021, 14.9% of 15-24 year olds in the Huon Valley were disengaged from employment and education, compared to 11.9% in Tasmania. This is an increase of 0.8% since 2016 (Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2016 and 2021).

While the Youth Jobs Strategy will not directly address mental health, housing, and other youth services reforms, as stated in the Discussion Paper, it is important that a collective effort is made by relevant government agencies and community stakeholders to reduce these barriers in a meaningful and sustainable way. To that end, we believe it necessary to clearly reference the work being undertaken by other State government agencies within in the Youth Jobs Strategy to encourage collaboration, accountability and the alignment of effort stated within the Discussion Paper.



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The Southern Employment and Training Network is fully supportive of the co-design process undertaken by Jobs Tasmania and DECYP in the development of the Youth Jobs Strategy, and acknowledge our role in working with Jobs Tasmania and other stakeholders to create sustainable improvement in outcomes for all young people in our region and beyond.

We look forward to continuing our involvement in the further development of the Youth Jobs Strategy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'RB' or similar initials.

**p.p. Robert Banfield**  
Chairman