



# Media Release

Mayor Steve Kons

Tuesday, 27 August 2019

## Mature Jobseekers Program to begin in Burnie

Earlier this year the Burnie City Council welcomed the Federal Government's announcement that a Mature Age Jobseekers program 'Building Bridges' will begin in Burnie this year and will continue until at least June 2021.

The Building Bridges project is part of the \$96.1 million Try, Test and Learn Fund which includes trialing new or innovative approaches to assist older job seekers onto a path towards stable, sustainable independence.

Building Bridges is an innovative employment initiative targeted toward mature jobseekers aged 45 years and over in the Burnie area. This local initiative, co-developed by Burnie City Council, local businesses, services and mature jobseekers, leverages Burnie City Council's community connections to address workforce participation issues for older workers through direct engagement with regional employers.

The aim of the Building Bridges initiative is to improve employment opportunities and outcomes for job-seekers aged 45+ in the Burnie region through a series of activities that:

- Link local employers with local mature age job seekers. Through a series of community networking events.
- Co-ordinate services for mature age job-seekers with complex needs.
- Raise awareness of the benefits of employing mature job-seekers through a local community campaign.

The Building Bridges project focuses on outcomes such as increased confidence and networking skills for mature age job-seekers; increased workforce participation; service co-ordination for those with complex needs and more positive employer attitudes.

Burnie City Council Mayor Steve Kons said "the program is a great example of a local community working with the Federal Government to design a program to meet local needs.

"There are many mature aged people in our community who struggle to re-enter the workforce for a number of reasons. This program is designed to support these job seekers through intensive support, networking opportunities and a community campaign to highlight their value to employers.

"The overarching aim of the project is to foster a greater awareness of the value of mature age jobseekers to employers and to build a greater number participating in employment in the Burnie region.

"Council looks forward to rolling out the program from October 2019, and through to June 2021."

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