



National Disability Coordination Officer Program
AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

Environmental Scan

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Region 17: Eastern Victoria and Outer South East

Melbourne

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Forward

The purpose of the National Disability Coordination Officer Program (NDCO) Environmental Scan is to provide a contextual analysis of the issues facing people with disability at the NDCO regional level. The NDCO program operates strategically at a local level to improve education and employment outcomes for people with disability from 14 to 64 years. The following information relates to NDCO Region 17 (East Victoria and Outer South East Melbourne) incorporates local government areas East Gippsland, Wellington, Latrobe, Baw Baw, South Gippsland and Bass Coast. Broader information has been included where relevant to provide comparisons to state and national data, where data relates to activities undertaken by people with disability in Vocational Education and Training, and Higher Education.

It is important to note that for the purpose of the NDCO there are significant gaps in information pertaining to the educational support needs of people with disability from the age of 14 to 18 years. Regionally specific data on the number of people with disability who require support or assistance to engage in education is not disclosed by the Victorian Government Department of Education and Training (VGDET) with the reason being explained as concerns related to current privacy legislation and access to health records.

The NDCO program has a very broad scope across considerable numbers and geographical areas. The lack of relevant data to guide strategic planning and measure the work of the program needs to be addressed to ensure the program is able to meet its aims in the most effective and efficient way possible given the limited resources. It would be highly beneficial for a formalised agreement to be considered to ensure the availability of regional data clarifying the number of young people with disability from 14 years of age who have an educational support needs.

Environmental Analysis

The Environmental Analysis for this region provides a contextual analysis of the issues facing people with disability. It is intended to outline and analyse the current and emerging trends, gaps and issues, key stakeholders and existing partnerships, and the community, education, training and employment environment within the NDCO Region. It is informed by a range of sources including available data sets and input from the NDCO Advisory Committee and by key stakeholders.

This document is an important driver for future developments in the NDCO Strategic Plan and is a useful tool to support and inform discussions with stakeholders.

Summary of Findings

1. The ABS census of 2016 finds that 6,539 people between the ages of 15 and 64 years of age in Region 17 identified with a severe or profound disability and estimated that in 2022 there will be 6,720. Latrobe being the highest at 2016: 2,099 and 2022: 2,051 and East Gippsland at 2016: 1,133 and 2022: 1,172 (ABS 2016).
2. Latrobe and East Gippsland have the highest projected numbers identifying with a severe or profound disability between the age of 15 to 24 years with Latrobe at 262 and East Gippsland at 141 for 2022.
3. From the findings of the 2016 Census Latrobe and East Gippsland have the highest numbers of young people aged 15-24 not in paid employment or enrolled in education. Latrobe at 1320- 14.4 percent and East Gippsland at 500- 12.1 percent.
4. DES caseload numbers at December 2017 were significantly higher for people with disability between the ages of 35-44 years of age and 55-64 years of age.
5. The most prominent disability types accessing DES are physical 1181 (44.2 percent) and psychiatric 977 (36.5 percent) disability (AGDE 2017).
6. In Victoria apprenticeships/traineeships in trade occupations by employer indicates that Group Training Schemes employ significantly higher numbers of people with disability than the private sector. Government has not employed any people with disability in trade apprenticeships since 2015. The highest number of trade apprenticeships/traineeships by government was ten in 2013, the private sector employed two hundred and thirty in 2016 and Group Training Scheme employed one thousand three hundred and fifty.
7. In Victoria apprenticeships/traineeships in non-trade occupations by employer indicates that the private sector employ significantly higher numbers of people with disability than Group Training Schemes. The highest number of trade apprenticeships/traineeships employed by government was fifteen in 2013 and 2014, the private sector employed seven hundred and sixty in 2013 and Group Training Scheme employed two hundred and fifteen in 2015. The private sector has however reduced the number of non-trade apprenticeships/traineeships by more than fifty percent to only providing three hundred and five placements in 2017.
8. In 2016 forty-four percent of community based education graduates with disability gained employment after training compared with seventy one percent of graduates without disability. In 2017 forty-three percent of community based education graduates with disability gained employment after training compared with sixty-nine percent of graduates without disability.
9. A summary of the outcomes and satisfaction of students who completed their vocational education and training (VET) in Victoria during 2016, using data collected in mid-2017 indicates that people with disability are overall less satisfied under every category relating to employment.
10. In 2016 Deakin University had the highest percentage of disability equity indicators for Domestic Undergraduates with 2613 (7.8 percent) of students enrolments, followed by Latrobe University with 1831 (7.8 percent) (AGDET 2016).

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

The NDIS is changing the landscape of disability services and how they are provided across Region 17. The NDIS reform that is long overdue and a step in the right direction, will ultimately benefit individuals with a disability. NDCO Region 17 is split into two NDIS service areas; Inner Gippsland and Outer Gippsland. The NDIS is now available in the Inner Gippsland area as of 1 October 2017.

The Inner Gippsland area covers the local government areas of:

- Bass Coast
- Baw Baw
- Latrobe
- South Gippsland

The NDIS will become available in the Outer Gippsland area from 1 January 2019.

The Outer Gippsland area covers the local government areas of:

- East Gippsland
- Wellington

A person may meet the access requirements to become a participant of the NDIS up to 6 months prior to this date.

For further information about the NDIS please go to the NDIS website.

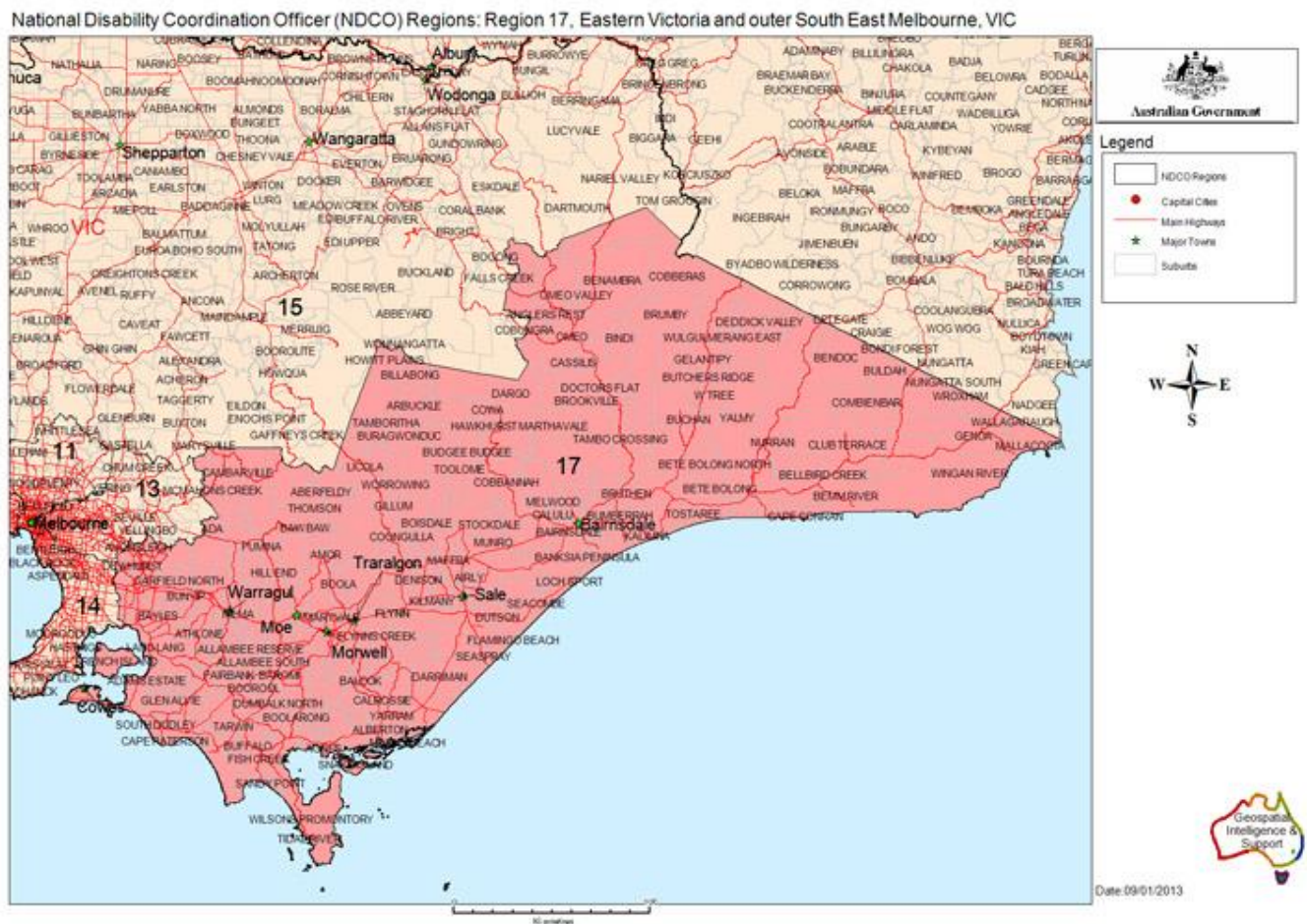
<https://www.ndis.gov.au/index.html>

Given the scale of this reform, it is expected and reasonable to experience some level of disruption and anxiety for participants and their families. The NDCO Program has been proactive in responding to the changes the NDIS brings, and have been actively supporting Region 17 with the daunting process. The NDCO has been providing information to the Disability Transition Network members across Region 17 on how the NDIS will intersect with transitional pathways and how it will affect people with disability transitioning across Region 17 and in particular the NDIS new School Leavers Employment Scheme (SLES).

Local Area Coordinator (LAC)

The LAC Services role is to assist people with disability, their families and carers to build and pursue their goals for a good life, exercise choice and control and engage with the Scheme; The LAC works to ensure that people with disability can be supported outside the Scheme by working with communities and mainstream services to build awareness and to become more inclusive of the range of needs and aspirations of the needs of people with disability; The LAC support participants of the Scheme to navigate and optimise their engagement with the scheme and to promote opportunities for people with disability.

1. Overview of regional demographics



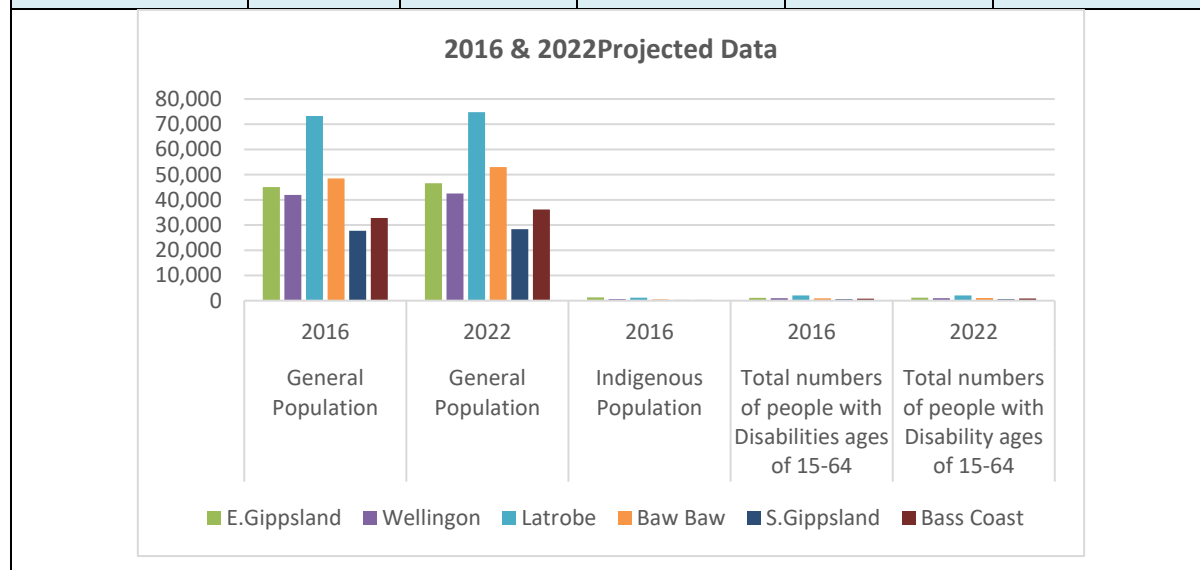
NDCO Region 17 (East Victoria and Outer South East Melbourne) covers an area of 41,684 square kilometres incorporating local government areas East Gippsland, Wellington, Latrobe, Baw Baw, South Gippsland and Bass Coast. It is geographically diverse including parts of Victoria's alpine areas, some relatively remote farming communities and coastal communities. Region 17 has an estimated population of 271,266.

The region is unique in that it does not have a large regional centre. It has several smaller regional centres including Bairnsdale, Warragul, Sale, Traralgon, Morwell, Moe, Leongatha, Wonthaggi and Cowes. There is limited access to services in the rural areas and support services for people with disability, their families and carers in rural or remote Gippsland are often inadequate. This can contribute to further pressures at the post school transition point creating barriers to further education, training and employment. The three most commonly reported barriers to course completion are a lack of jobseeker motivation, transport difficulties, and family pressures such as caring responsibilities.

Region 17 has three Local Learning and Employment Networks (LLEN) regions, Gippsland East, Baw Baw Latrobe and South Gippsland Bass Coast.

The ABS census of 2016 findings that 6,539 people between the ages of 15 and 64 years of age in Region 17 identified with a severe or profound disability and estimated that in 2022 there will be 6,720. Latrobe being the highest at 2016: 2,099 and 2022: 2,051 and East Gippsland at 2016: 1,133 and 2022: 1,172 (ABS 2016).

Region 17- 2016 and 2022 projected data from the 2016 Census					
Local Government Area (LGA)	General Population 2016	General Population 2022	Indigenous Population 2016	Total numbers of people with Disabilities ages of 15-64 2016	Total numbers of people with Disability ages of 15-64 2022
East Gippsland	45,040	46,577	1,288	1,133	1,172
Wellington	41,983	42,534	640	1,026	987
Latrobe	73,257	74,759	1,184	2,099	2,051
Baw Baw	48,479	52,970	484	953	1,084
South Gippsland	27,751	28,333	274	545	546
Bass Coast	32,804	36,157	303	783	880
Total	271,266	281,330	4,73	6,539	6,720

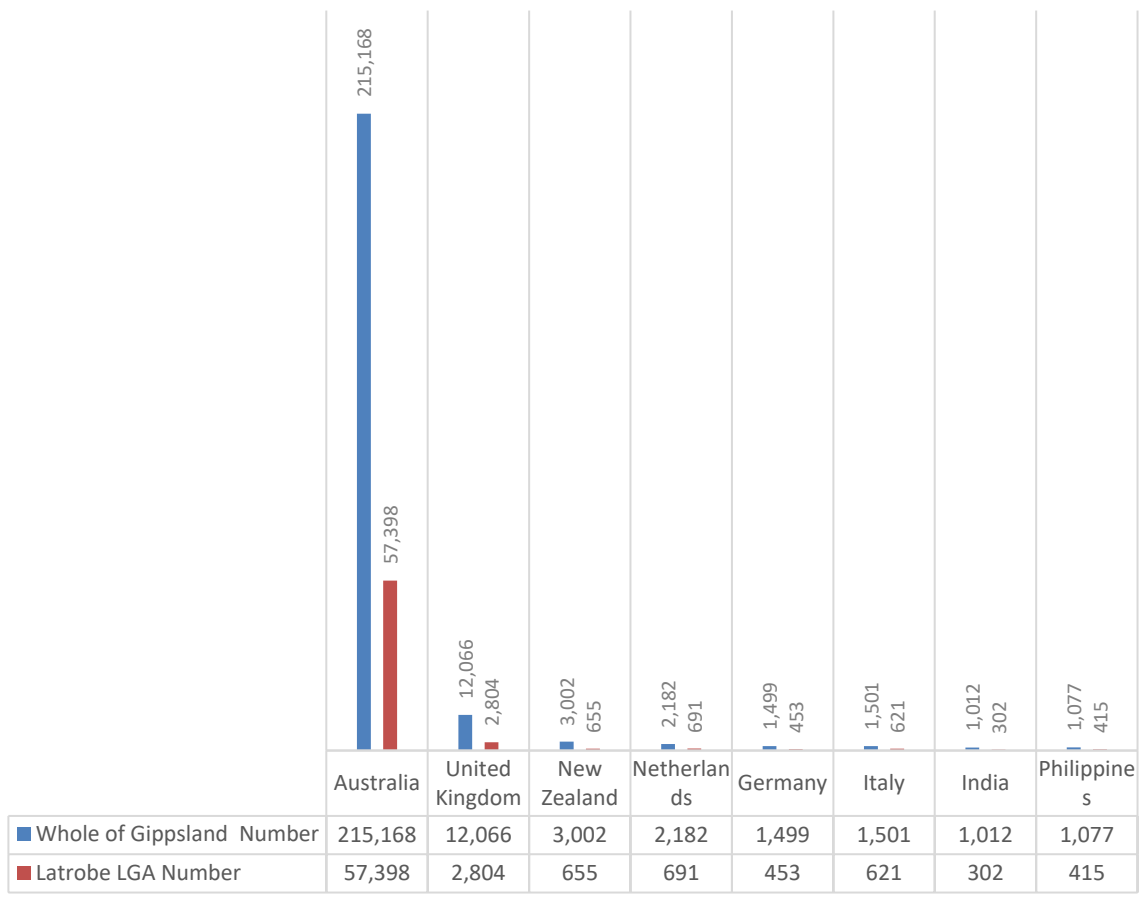


Extracted from: City of Greater Dandenong and the Victorian Local Government Association (VLGA), Disability forecasts, Disability and carers. Statistical Data for Victorian Communities <http://forecast.id.com.au/> (Appendix table 1) ABS community Profiles <http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/2016%20Census%20Community%20Profiles>

The majority of Gippsland residents were born in Australia 79.3 percent; with 14.7 percent of the population born in a non-English speaking countries (NESCs) and 12.5 percent speak a Language other than English (LOTE) at home. For those people born outside the country, most were from the United Kingdom, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, India and the Philippines. Gippsland’s Italian population, which is less than 1 percent, is the only LOTE spoken by more than 0.5 percent of the population and accounts for 20 per cent of all LOTE speakers.

GIPPLSAND AND LATROBE RESIDENTS BY BIRTHPLACE

■ Whole of Gippsland Number ■ Latrobe LGA Number



Extracted from:

- City of Greater Dandenong and the Victorian Local Government Association (VLGA), Disability forecasts, Disability and carers. Statistical Data for Victorian Communities <http://forecast.id.com.au/> (Appendix table 20)
- ABS community Profiles 2016 <http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/2016%20Census%20Community%20Profiles>

Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data however, feedback from Centrelink indicates that they are in contact with some 3,000 people who are more recently arrived to the region.

The CALD population is the highest in Latrobe. There is an increasing migrant and refugee population, predominantly West African, settling in Latrobe City. See Appendix Table 21. Many of these families have been identified as requiring additional support in order to make successful connections with the training sector. The Region 17 NDCO is a member of the Latrobe newly arrived Education, Training and Employment. This network is coordinated by the Latrobe Community Health Service (LCHS) Settlement Program.

Regionally specific skills shortage information is limited. The 'Change and Disadvantage in the Gippsland Region, Victoria' report has cited a range of skills shortages throughout the Gippsland region. Some areas in regional Victoria have trouble attracting skilled workers because of lower incomes, lack of premium housing or low perceived amenity in particular areas. The report cited the following areas: Bakers, Community workers, Counsellors, Electrical engineers, General electricians, General medical practitioners, Hairdressers, Metal fitters and turners, Metal machinists, Motor mechanics, Pastry cooks, Physiotherapists, Registered nurses, Secondary school teachers, Structural steel and welding tradespeople, Welfare workers.

While these skills shortages reflect the identified national industry skills shortages, there are also more localised pockets of skills needs. These include engineering, electro technologies, building and construction, horticulture, automotive, health and community services. A greater alignment of VETiS school enrolments with these industries would reduce the skill shortages in these areas.

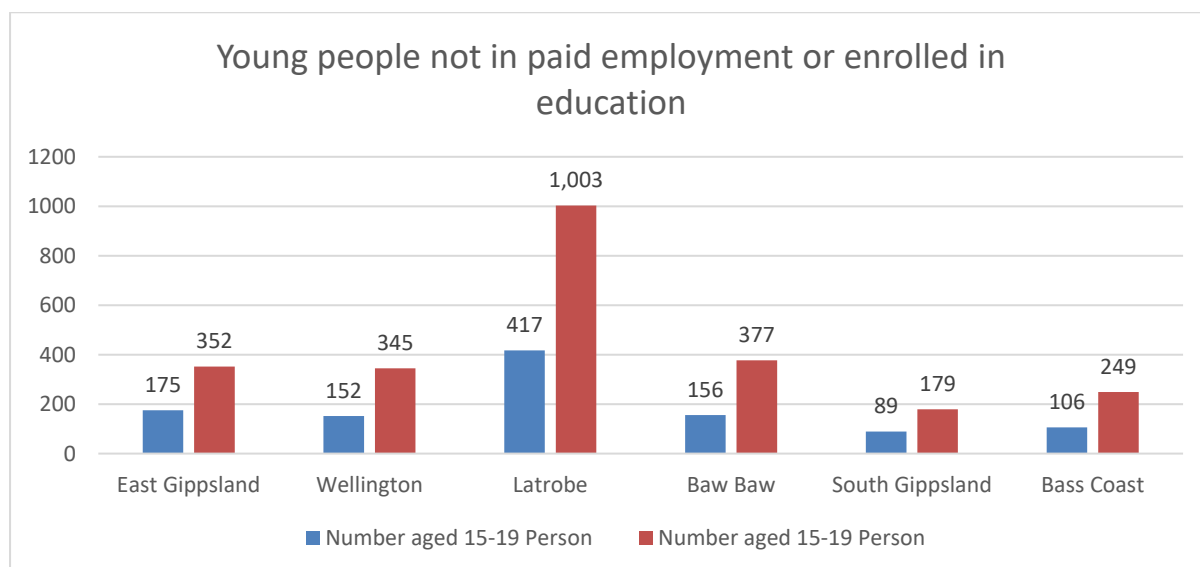
Anecdotally, through the work of the Inner Gippsland Children and Youth Area Partnership (IG CYAP) a high number of young people in out of home care have disabilities and severe learning barriers

2. Provide an overview of the school, VET and higher education, employment and community sector environments.

School Sector

Region 17 has 34 Secondary Schools in total (Including: government, catholic and independent schools) 18 Government Secondary Schools, 3 P-12 Government Schools, 5 Catholic Schools, 8 Independent schools and 7 Specialist Schools. 12 Flexible Learning Program.

LGA	Government Secondary School	Government P-12 Schools	Catholic School	Independent School	Specialist School	Flexible Learning Programs
East Gippsland	3	3	1	0	1	2
Wellington	3	0	1	1	1	1
Latrobe	3	0	1	2	2	2
Baw Baw	4	0	1	3	1	2
South Gippsland	4	0	1	1	1	2
Bass Coast	1	0	0	1	1	3



ABS community Profiles

2016 <http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/2016%20Census%20Community%20Profiles>

At the 2016 Census, there were 3,600 people aged 15-24 years living in Region 17 (across the six LGA's) who were neither in the labour force nor in the education system. This represents 12.4 percent of the total population aged 15-24 years.

Disengaged youth may be unable to work or study due to health issues, may lack skills required for social participation and/or have limited financial means. Other youth in the disengaged category may also include those taking a 'gap' year between studies, those who are travelling or those who are looking after family. Concentrations of disengaged youth were found most notably in the LGA's of Bass Coast, Latrobe and East Gippsland.

The Bass Coast Shire Youth Action Plan has been developed with a focus on young people aged 12 to 25 years living, studying and/or working in Bass Coast. The plan identifies the aspirations of our young people and their vision for the future, what young people see as the community's assets, strengths, and where there are opportunities for improvement.

A range of organisations offer *Flexible Learning Programs* across Region 17. Federation Training, Chisholm TAFE and Community College Gippsland offer Community Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) programs. These programs are an alternative education program, offering the equivalent of Years 10, 11 and 12 to young people who have become disengaged from school. Class sizes are smaller and an emphasis on flexible learning gives them access to training that best suits their learning styles. Flexible learning also opens up a range of learning options and increases accessibility, helping to make training more equitable.

Flexible Learning Option (FLO) Latrobe Valley was established in July 2014 to support young people who have a long history of disengagement or exclusion from school and who require more complex and intensive service to re-engage with education. The FLO School is a partnership between three government secondary colleges in the Latrobe LGA, Kurnai College, Lowanna College, Traralgon College and the Department of Education and Training.

Wonthaggi Secondary College Outreach Program supports students who have disengaged from school, often because of mental health issues, to continue their education through this crucial outreach program. As the only government secondary school in the Bass Coast Shire, Wonthaggi Secondary College is determined to ensure its senior students are able to complete their education even if they are unable to attend school. Through the school's own online learning program and a partnership with the Distance Education Centre Victoria, these students are able to complete their studies including their VCE with the support of the youth worker and a teacher.

In East Gippsland, South Gippsland and West Gippsland Skills Training Alliances have been set up. The Skills Training Alliance is a partnership of Schools and Registered Training Organisations offering students access to VETiS programs. 'Blended learning models' are offered which include access to training via a combination of online learning modes. There has been an annual increase in enrolments of plumbing, electrical and auto across the three training locations.

Tertiary Education Sector

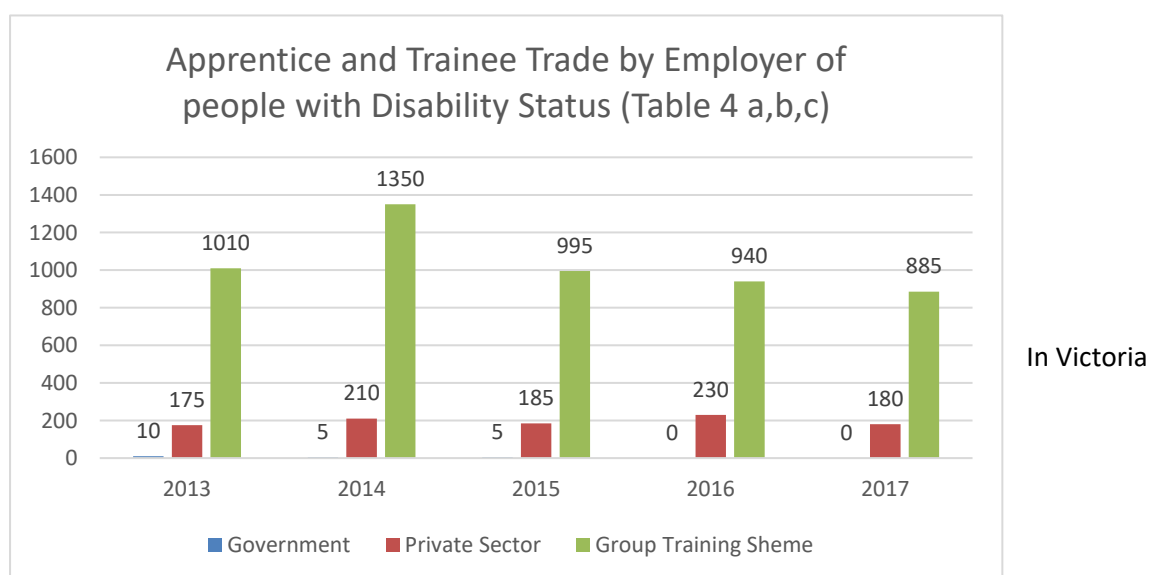
The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) is the national professional body responsible for collecting, managing, analysing and communicating research and statistics on the Australian vocational education and training (VET) sector. The June 2017 Apprentice and Trainees Data slicer indicates Trade and non-trade completions rates of people with disability and people with indigenous status employed by Government, private sector and Groups Training Schemes (GTS) in all states of Australia. The following data relates to changes over the years of 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and to June 2017.

In Victoria apprenticeships/traineeships in trade occupations by employer indicates that Group Training Schemes employ significantly higher numbers of people with disability than the private sector. Government has not employed any people with disability in trade apprenticeships since 2015. The highest number of trade apprenticeships/traineeships by government was ten in 2013, by private sector was two hundred and thirty in 2016 and by Group Training Scheme was one thousand three hundred and fifty.

The government employed ten people with disability in trade Apprenticeships/Traineeships in 2013, five in 2014, five in 2015 zero people in 2016 and zero people with disability in trades in 2017.

Group Training Schemes employed one thousand and ten people with disability in trade Apprenticeships/Traineeships 2013, one thousand three hundred and fifty in 2014, nine hundred and ninety-five in 2015, nine hundred and forty in 2016 and eight hundred and eighty-five people with disability in 2017.

The private sector employed one hundred and seventy-five people with disability in trade Apprenticeships/Traineeships 2013, two hundred and ten in 2014, one hundred and eighty-five in 2015, two hundred and thirty in 2016 and one hundred and eighty people with disability in 2017.



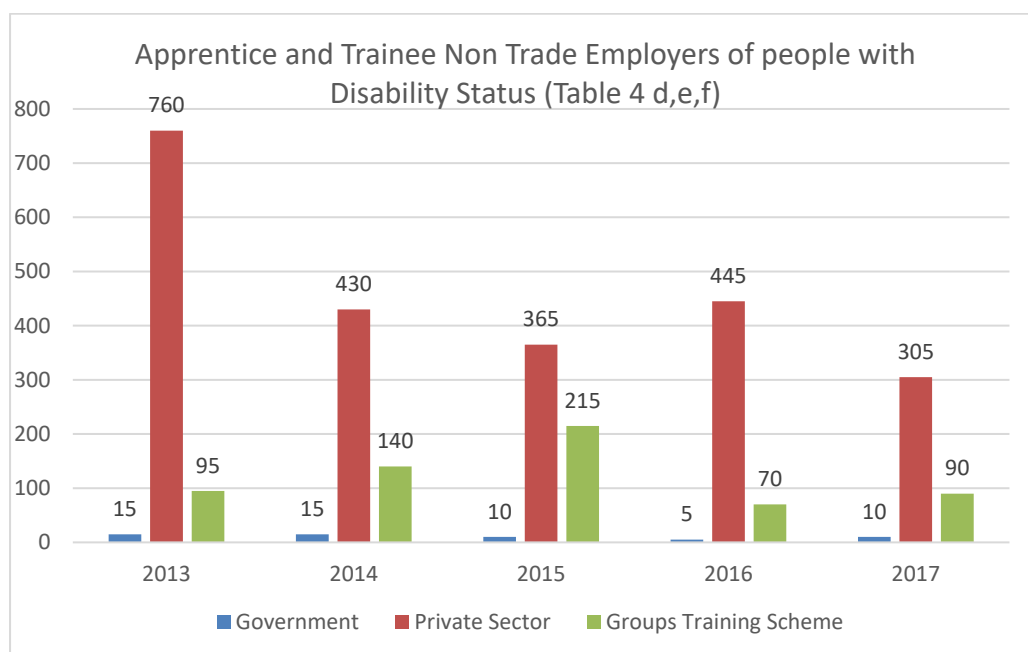
apprenticeships/traineeships in non-trade occupations by employer indicates that the private sector employ significantly higher numbers of people with disability than Group Training Schemes. The

highest number of trade apprenticeships/traineeships by government was fifteen in 2013 and 2014, by private sector was seven hundred and sixty in 2013 and by Group Training Scheme was two hundred and fifteen in 2015. The private sector has however reduced the number of non-trade apprenticeships/traineeships by more than 50 percent to only providing three hundred and five placements in 2017.

The government employed fifteen people with disability in no-trade Apprenticeships/Traineeships in 2013, fifteen in 2014, ten in 2015, five people in 2016 and ten people with disability in trades in 2017.

Group Training Schemes employed ninety-five with disability in non-trade Apprenticeships/Traineeships 2013, one hundred and forty in 2014, two hundred and fifteen in 2015, seventy in 2016 and ninety people with disability in 2017.

The private sector employed seven hundred and sixty people with disability in non-trade Apprenticeships/Traineeships 2013, four hundred and thirty in 2014, three hundred and sixty-five in 2015, four hundred and forty-five in 2016 and three hundred and five people with disability in 2017.



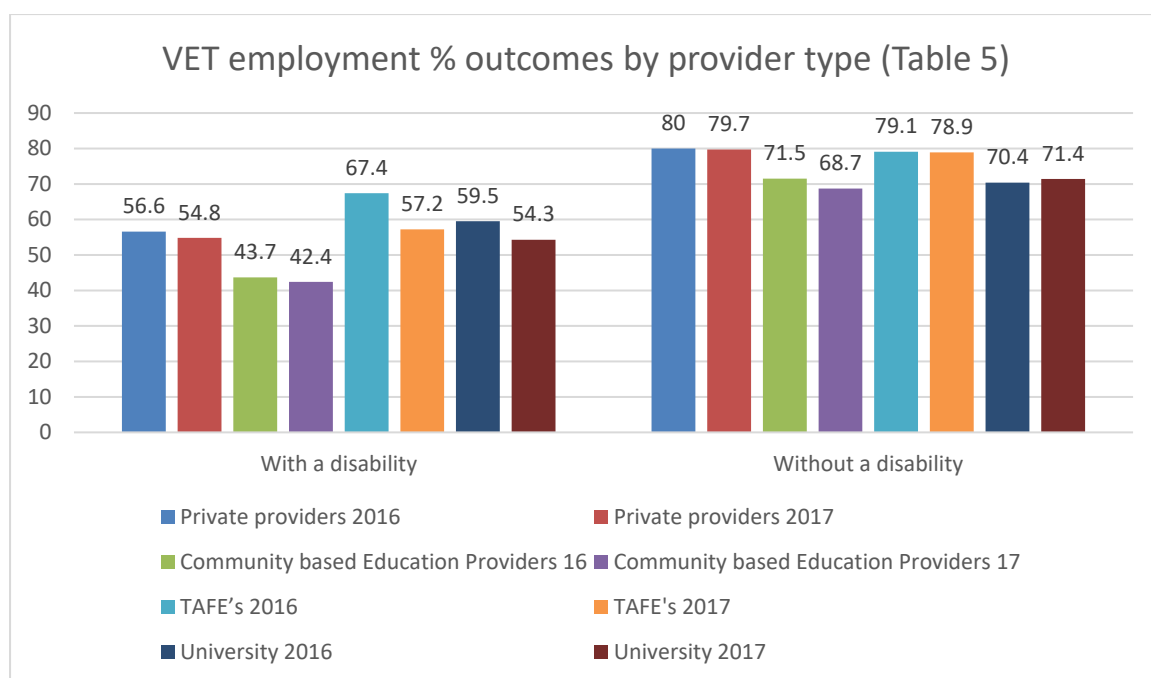
The NCVET student outcomes 2017 data slicer provides data on employment after training for graduates with and without disability by training provider. Overall employment rates for people with disability from all training environments are lower than those without. Community Based Education Providers have the lowest employment outcomes for people with and without disability.

In 2016 fifty-six percent of private provider graduates with disability were employed after training compared with eighty percent of people without disability. In 2017 fifty-four percent of private provider graduates with disability were employed after training compared with eighty percent of people without disability.

In 2016 forty-four percent of community based education graduates with disability gained employment after training compared with seventy one percent of graduates without disability. In 2017 forty-three percent of community based education graduates with disability gained employment after training compared with sixty-nine percent of graduates without disability.

In 2016 sixty-seven percent of TAFE education graduates with disability gained employment after training compared with seventy-nine percent of graduates without disability. In 2017 fifty-seven percent of TAFE education graduates with disability gained employment after training compared with seventy-nine percent of graduates without disability.

In 2016 fifty-nine percent of University education graduates with disability gained employment after training compared with seventy percent of graduates without disability. In 2017 fifty-four percent of University education graduates with disability gained employment after training compared with seventy-one percent of graduates without disability.



A summary of the outcomes and satisfaction of students who completed their vocational education and training (VET) in Victoria during 2016, using data collected in mid-2017 indicates that for people with disability are overall less satisfied under every category relating to employment. In relation to 'Improved employment status after training' satisfaction was low for people with and without disability with a low thirty-four percent for people with disability and forty-four percent for people without disability.

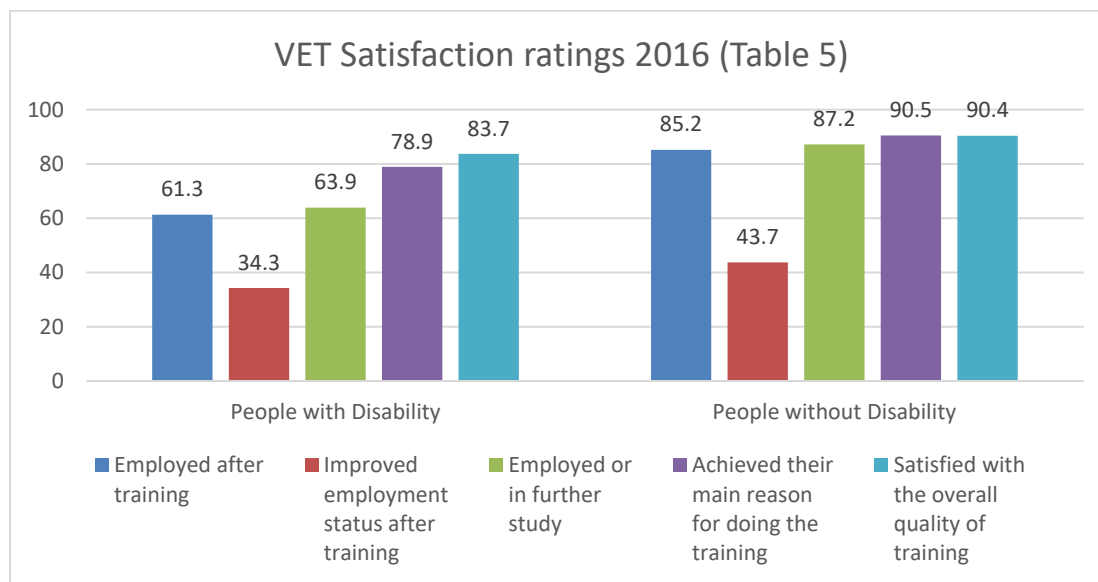
For the question 'Employed after training' for people with disability there was a sixty- percent satisfaction compared with people without disability whom eighty-five percent were satisfied.

For 'Improved employment status after training' for people with disability there was a low thirty-four percent satisfied and for people without disability there was a low forty-three percent satisfied.

The satisfaction rating for 'Employed or in further study' almost 64 percent of people with disability were satisfied while eighty-seven percent of people without disability were satisfied

The satisfaction rating for 'Achieved their main reason for doing the training' almost seventy-nine percent of people with disability were satisfied while ninety percent of people without disability were satisfied.

The satisfaction rating for 'Satisfied with the overall quality of training' nearly eighty-four percent of people with disability were satisfied while ninety percent of people without disability were satisfied.



Region 17 is primarily serviced by the following Tertiary Education institutions by:

Federation University: has a Campus at Churchill with faculties in education, nursing and midwifery, information technology, science and engineering, business and economics, and a range of fields in the arts.

Monash University: still offers medicine in the region.

Federation Training: has campuses at, Bairnsdale, Sale, Lakes Entrance, Yallourn, Traralgon, Morwell, Leongatha and Warragul. Courses offered include but are not limited to business, general education, health and community and apprenticeships in the trades.

Chisholm Institute: has a campus in Wonthaggi offering hospitality and business administration.

Federation University offers the following additional services to Students:

- The Disability Liaison Unit (DLU) provide services to students with disabilities within the University's equity framework and in accordance with the Disability Standards for Education 2005

There are a variety of Private Registered Training Organisations (RTO's) offering Vocational Education and Training, Apprenticeship Centres and Group Training Organisations across the region.

Training Information Pathways Service (TIPS) centres provide information and support to people wanting to get back into training including young mothers, unemployed and underemployed people and low skilled and vulnerable workers.

They can refer people to further advice and training options at Federation Training's Skills and Job Centre and the 24 Learn Local organisations across Gippsland. Learn Local providers are crucial to communities across Gippsland, often providing valuable pre-accredited training opportunities to some of the most disadvantaged learners. "Gippsland Learn Locals play such an important role in engaging people in education so they can not only improve their own lives but give back to our community." Harriet Shing, 2017 Member for Eastern Victoria.

TIPS Centres began operating this March 2017 at nine Learn Local organisations in Gippsland:

- Gippsland Employment Skills Training(GEST) in Moe
- Moe Life Skills
- Traralgon Neighbourhood Learning Centre
- Paynesville Neighbourhood House
- Gippsland East Learn Local Alliance in Bairnsdale
- Heyfield Community Resource Centre
- Milpara Community House in Korumburra
- Manna Gum, in Foster
- Bass Coast Adult Education Centre in Wonthaggi

Higher education data on domestic undergraduate students who have disclosed disability, non-English speaking back ground and Indigenous heritage is publicly available by institute for 2016. La Trobe University had the percentage of disability equity indicators for undergraduates with 1,536 (6.9 percent) of students, followed by Deakin 2,094 (6.7 percent) and Federation 374 (.96 percent) (Appendix Table 20, AGDET 2016)

Employment sector

The agribusiness sector is a significant employer in Region 17, with over 37 percent of Gippsland's business involved in agriculture and fishing and a further 15 percent involved in upstream processing operations. Livestock products, including milk production, represent about 50 percent of that total, followed by Livestock Slaughters 30 percent, and Crops 20 percent. The dairy industry in Gippsland's producers 32 percent of Victoria's dairy production or 19 percent of Australia's dairy production and accounts for about a third of Victoria's total dairy revenue. Energy production is one of Gippsland major industries, in the Latrobe Valley and Wellington's oil and gas fields. The region produces around 90 percent of Victoria's electricity and 97 percent of Victoria's natural gas, with 46 percent of Australia's oil coming from the Bass Strait fields.

Registered Australian Disability Enterprises (ADE) in Region 17 are limited in local government areas East Gippsland two; Wellington, Latrobe, Baw Baw and Bass Coast have one and South Gippsland has none. ADE's based provide supported employment in timber products and machining services, licensed cafés, food manufacturing, specialty foods, packaging and repackaging, landscaping, garden maintenance and horticulture.

Transport is lacking in many geographical areas and isolation is a key area of concern amongst jobseekers. There are vast expanses of land between regional centers and making services to rural communities limited. Other barriers to employment include housing insecurity and homelessness, and drug and alcohol dependency.

Employment Supports

People with disability are able to access a range of supports to assist with gaining and maintaining employment. There are currently three types of employment structures:

Open employment - A person with a disability who is looking for work in open employment can choose between a Mainstream Job Services Australia (JSA) Provider or a Disability Employment Service (DES).

Supported employment

If you are looking for more training and need high levels of ongoing support Australian Disability Enterprises have businesses in packaging, assembly, production, recycling, screen printing, plant nursery, garden maintenance and landscaping, cleaning services, laundry services and food services.

Supported wage system

The Supported Wage System (SWS) allows an employer to match an appropriate wage with the productivity of a person with disability. For example, if you are assessed as having a work productivity rate of 70 per cent, this may allow your employer to hire you at 70 per cent of the usual award rate of pay. The productivity percentage only applies to your wage rate and all other conditions of employment are the same as your co-workers. For details of SWS, including eligibility, contact a JobAccess Adviser on 1800 464 800 or speak to a Disability Employment Services provider in your area.

Other employment supports

Work Based Personal Assistance

If a person with disability needs help at work to eat a meal, use the toilet or take medication, you may be eligible for support through Work Based Personal Assistance. The assistance is designed to reimburse the costs of workplace support services for people who need regular help due to a disability or medical condition.

National Work Experience Program

Employment Services can encourage employers to offer work experience placements for people with disability. Work experience allows employers to see how people with disability operate in a work environment, and how these people are able to perform different work tasks. Work experience also gives people with disability a chance to show their capabilities and positive attitude. For more information, visit the Jobactive National Work Experience Program or contact a JobAccess Adviser on 1800 464 800

<https://www.jobaccess.gov.au/service-providers/other-australian-government-support>

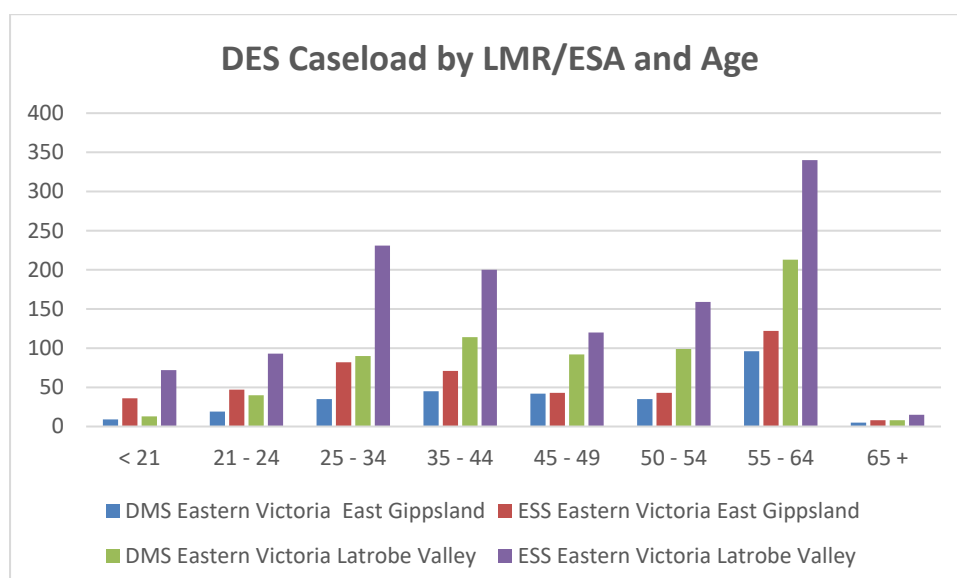
School Leaver Employment Support

School Leaver Employment Support, or SLES, is a new NDIS support that may help you. SLES is about giving you the skills and confidence to help you move from school to employment. SLES offers you individualised support for up to 2 years after finishing year 12 to help you get ready for work and plan your pathway to employment.

<https://www.ndis.gov.au/people-disability/sles>

Disability Employment Services (DES)

Number of Disability Employment Service (DES) servicing Region 17 including specialist programs for ex-offenders and mental health	
LGA	
East Gippsland- ESA East Gippsland	9
Wellington- ESA East Gippsland	6
Latrobe-ESA Latrobe	11
Baw Baw- ESA Latrobe	5
South Gippsland- ESA Latrobe	5
Bass Coast- ESA Latrobe	6



AGDE Table 3: DES Caseload by LMR/ESA & Age - Data as at 31st December 2017
(Cited 30.4.18)

<http://lmip.gov.au/default.aspx?LMIP/DisabilityEmploymentServicesData/DESCaseloadandCommencementsData>

Region 17 DES caseload numbers at December 2017 were significantly higher for people with disability between the ages 35-44 and 55-64 years of age. Employment Service Area (ESA) of Latrobe Valley there were 414, 21.8 percent between the ages of 35-44 years of age and 553, 29.1 percent 55-64 years of age. In comparison <20 people 21 years of age and under accessing DES in the ESA of East Gippsland. Appendix table 16

Community sector

There are more than 40 Neighborhood houses in the regional towns across Region 17 which support people to connect, learn and contribute to their through social, recreational activities. Other community supports in each LGA are:

East Gippsland

- Bairnsdale has a SNAP program head office providing services including psycho-social rehabilitation and recovery oriented models of service and care that align well with DES services.
- Gippsland Lakes Community Health offered a range of programs including alcohol and drug, counselling and support, disability, family support living at home assessments, respite, maintenance, personal care and domestic assistance and Men's' Behaviour Change Program.
- Bairnsdale also has Community and Mental Health service.

- Noweyung provides services including education, training, community development, pre-employment, employment and advocacy for people with disabilities
- Uniting Care Gippsland and DHS Disability Intake and Response
- Federation Training have the GET Centre Employment and Transitional Training Centre offering services including training and employment support for people with disability

Wellington

- George Gray provides services including education, training, community development, pre-employment, employment and advocacy for people with disabilities
- Latrobe Community Health offered a range of programs for the community including alcohol and drug, counseling and support, disability, family support living at home assessments, respite, maintenance, personal care and domestic assistance.
- Federation Training have the GET Centre Employment and Transitional Training Centre offering services including training and employment support for people with disability

Latrobe

- Connecting2Australia provides services including education, training, community development, pre-employment, employment and advocacy for people with disabilities DHS Disability Intake and response
- Federation Training have the GET Centre Employment and Transitional Training Centre offering services including training and employment support for people with disability
- Gippsland Multicultural Services
- Interact Employment and Training service including job placement for PWD and medical conditions
- Statewide Autistic Services Inc. Alfred Murfey Centre (AMC), offer teenagers and adults with high needs autism, intellectual and other complex disabilities day service.
- Traralgon Deaf Facility

Baw Baw

- Mawarra Centre Disability Support Services including Day Programs and Supported Employment and Scope Gippsland Flexible Options.
- Yooralla disability services provides services including education, training, community development, pre-employment, employment and advocacy for people with disabilities
- Scope- delivery person-driven, flexible and responsive services to build a sustainable futures
- Federation Training have the GET Centre Employment and Transitional Training Centre offering services including training and employment support for people with disability

South Gippsland

- Yooralla disability services provides services including education, training, community development, pre-employment, employment and advocacy for people with disabilities

- Federation Training have the GET Centre Employment and Transitional Training Centre offering services including training and employment support for people with disability

Bass Coast

- Connecting2Australia provides services including education, training, community development, pre-employment, employment and advocacy for people with disabilities
- Interchange Gippsland provides services including education, training, community development, pre-employment, employment and advocacy for people with disabilities
- Scope

3. Provide a summary of the pressing issues facing people with disability that are specific to the nominated region.

East Gippsland has the highest indigenous population with 2.8 percent, Latrobe 1.6 percent and Wellington 1.4 percent. The need for disability-related assistance in the Aboriginal population is much higher than that in the general population particularly in the 0-24 and 45-54 year age groups with Aboriginal males outnumbering females in these age profiles.

The announcement of the closure of Hazelwood power station in 2017 adds further complexity to an uncertain future facing the Latrobe Valley community. The power station closure had been and further job losses from the power industry will add to community concerns and the effect on the economy of Gippsland. The Latrobe Valley Authority has been set up to lead the economic transition. Recovery has been slow within the Latrobe Valley community, the challenges of reversing economic decline have been exacerbated by impact of the Hazelwood mine fire and the milk price downturn on the dairy industry. Cooperatives Murray Goulburn and Fonterra both dramatically reduced the prices they offer dairy farmers for milk.

East Gippsland is a vast and difficult area to travel with considerable distances between centres. The area is characterised by a lack of reliable and consistent transport both between and within towns. Limited transport makes access to education and training difficult. Should students from east of Lakes Entrance or north of Bairnsdale wish to study at TAFE they would have to re-locate or arrange lifts with other travellers. There is no appropriately timed transport for students in East Gippsland to access education and training west of Bairnsdale – either to the TAFE campus in Sale, or to the Federation University campus in Churchill. The East Gippsland Shire is considered to be transport disadvantaged with limited public transport. This has implications for students who apply for university places who are required to move out of home to attend university and are not provided with extra assistance.

A significant increase in the number of tertiary courses available through private providers and online reduces the level of structured learning support that is offered in TAFE's and universities. This is a significant issue for students who require learning support, in Bass Coast educational aspirations of students and families were raised as a frequent issue for attention with 25 submissions received by the Expert Panel formulating the Gippsland Tertiary Education Plan. The Bass Coast Shire has created an Education Plan which address's educational aspirations.

There is only one university provider in the region with course offerings limited relative to the metropolitan region. Issues raised by the submissions with regard to aspirations included poor promotion of tertiary opportunities to students, intergenerational issues where the low educational attainment of parents were relevant factors, employers and major industry need to play a larger role in promoting opportunities, career counselling and connections between industry and schools was seen as deficient. There are insufficient formal protocols and holistic services for students with a disability to allow careers advisers to target career development and graduate opportunities for students with a disability.

Mental illness has a significant impact on students in their first year of independent study. They are not only independent in study but also independent in making decisions about how much of a work load they are able to deal with and how to manage their mental health. A characteristic of the region is that mental health services are limited in smaller communities.

4. Provide an overview of what is already happening in the nominated region.

The region has many initiatives and programs which include but are not limited to:

- Local Learning and Employment (LLEN) Networks. The main goal of LLENs is to improve outcomes for young people by increasing opportunities for their participation, attainment and successful transitions in education, training or employment. LLENs have a particular focus on young people at risk of disengaging, or who have already disengaged from education and training and are not in meaningful employment.
- The National Disability Coordination Officer for region 17 coordinates 5 localised Disability Transition networks with targeted initiatives to support inclusive practice in education and employment for people with a disability and further work that supports access to tertiary education and employment for PWD.
- Tertiary Pathways programs - Designed to give students with lower ATAR scores greater access to a university, extra support in a tertiary setting and an opportunity to explore academic options if uncertain about future career directions
- DHHS Transition Coaches Futures for Young Adults - Futures for Young Adults program provides support to students with a disability to make the transition to post-school options. This program is still running in Outer Gippsland until the NDIS is available in 1/1/2019.
- Trade Training Alliance offers increased alignment of VETiS provision with local skill shortage areas. 'Blended learning models' are offered which include access to training via a combination of on line learning modes.
- Passport 2 Employment (P2E) Program in Baw Baw and Latrobe. P2E is a pre-employment training program to assist students that have been identified as benefitting from extra transition, education, preparation and support. The main objectives of the program include:
 - Motivating and empowering students to continue to engage and achieve with education throughout their secondary schooling years
 - To provide participants with skills and knowledge that will assist them in seeking, finding, obtaining and retaining employment and/or further education training opportunities

- Learn and Share Network a careers best practice network to build the specialist schools capacity in transition focused education. The aim of the Learn and Share Network is to bring together colleagues with common goals to explore ways of working, identify common solutions and share best practice and ideas.

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