

# Mid North Mutterings



MID NORTH REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD INC

Volume 2, Issue 4

April 2008

## Employment & Skills (ESF) Formation Action Plan 2008-09

On 21st February, 2008 the ESF Network met at the Clare Country Club for a Planning Session in preparation for the development of the third Action Plan against our 2006-09 Strategic Plan.

The SA Works Regional Coordinator, John May chaired the session.

The Workforce Development unit from Department Further Education Employment, Science & Technology (DFEEST) presented a summary of information about the Mid North from the 2006 Census that will make up the 2006 DFEEST Regional Profile.

The Mid North region continues to show lower than State average unemployment rates, as the workforce shrinks, with potential labour shortages and an older population than State average. Some job decreases in agriculture and viticulture have been off-set by jobs growth in mining, government administration, health and community services, and building and construction since the 2000 Census. Of concern is the continuing decline in the number of apprenticeship and traineeship sign-ups, which goes against the state trend.

The strategic directions of DFEEST, The Regional Development Board, and major partner Barossa Lower North Futures were summarised.

Employment Directions then presented a summary of issues and trends relating to the jobs market, and there was information provided about skilled migration in the region.

Employment Programs, DFEEST gave the Network an analysis of our SA Works client base and the outcomes from prior programs.

The meeting then broke into groups for a closer analysis of some of the key issues relating to the SA Works program; employability skills, attraction and retention of employees, and the current provision and gaps in our industry training.

From all of this information and data the new plan will be drawn up, a draft circulated to the Network for comment by 8th April, 2008, and to the Regional Development Board by 24th April, 2008.

- GO TO [WWW.MNRDB.COM.AU](http://WWW.MNRDB.COM.AU)

FOR BUSINESS INFORMATION, EVENTS AND LATEST NEWS

- OHS & W  
PENALTIES  
TRIPLED IN  
SOUTH  
AUSTRALIA

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BUSINESS BREAK-FAST SUCCESS 2

OHS & W  
- RESPONSIVE OFFI- 3



SouthAustraliaWorks  
Employment40+

Government of South Australia  
Department of Further Education,  
Employment, Science and Technology

### MAKING A NEW START

#### ARE YOU A MATURE AGED JOBSEEKER?

We are offering you an opportunity to attend a **FREE** Employment 40 Plus Forum on **Wednesday 9 April 2008** at the Clare Country Club, Inchiquin Room, White Hut Road, Clare, from 8:45am to 4:00pm.

This Forum will provide job seekers over 40 with the opportunity to gain practical advice on the world of work; speak with employers regarding employment opportunities and gain tips and resources for finding a job. Bookings are essential, so register today by calling the **Employment 40 Plus Infoline on 1800 811 985.**

Transport assistance is available to and from the Forum. For further information, contact the infoline above.

*Free lunch and beverages will be provided. Priority is given to those who are not currently assisted through Job Network Intensive Support.*

Employment 40 Plus is a South Australia Works initiative in partnership with the Mid North Regional Development Board.

CLARE



COUNTRY CLUB

★★★★ RATING

## Breakfast Initiative Draws Crowd

The first in a series of Business Networking Breakfasts filled the function room at the Clare Country Club on the 6th February, 2008.

Organised by the Mid North Regional Development Board (MNRDB), the Business Breakfasts are a new initiative and Chair Kay Mathias stated, "Local business owners linking and networking together is a key way to raise economic activity in our Region"



Guest speaker was Ernie Goh, President of the Australia-Singapore Business Council, who provided an interesting snapshot of 'the little red dot' to the north of Australia, with four million affluent people and a large expatriate Australian contingent. He spoke of the various opportunities for export from Australia to one of the world's easiest nations to trade with. He also created awareness of the 'Food and Hotel Asia' expo in April this year and the opportunities for food and wine exports from the Clare Valley.

Supported by Clare Valley Winemakers Inc, many local winemakers put aside the pressures of vintage for a couple of hours to keep abreast of market opportunities in Asia.



Future Business Networking Breakfasts are in the pipeline, and registration is simple on the Board's website, [www.mnrdb.com.au](http://www.mnrdb.com.au). A range of Better Business Workshops for building business skills are also listed on the website.

Also present was a Programme Coordinator with the Dept of Trade and Economic Development, who detailed State Government programs available to assist local producers export. The Board's Business development Officer, Alan Schwarz said 'There is scope for local producers to link together under the Clare Valley banner at the upcoming Singapore Expo'.

For further information the Board can be contacted on 8842 3115.

**FOR  
FREE BUSINESS  
INFORMATION  
AT YOUR  
FINGERTIPS  
JUST GO TO**

[www.mnrdb.com.au](http://www.mnrdb.com.au)

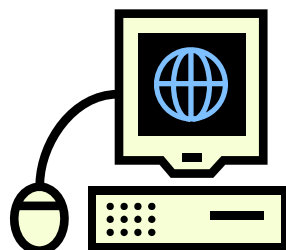
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### CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE

[www.mnrdb.com.au](http://www.mnrdb.com.au)

All the business & events Information you need.

Join our mailing list to receive up to date news from around the region.



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## Safety Speaks-OH&S Penalties Tripled in South Australia

The *Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare (Penalties) Amendment bill*, which tripled the maximum penalties for corporate and public sector offenders of the *Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act 1986*, was passed at the end of 2007.

Corporations now face fines of up to \$300,000 for first offences and up to \$600,000 for subsequent breaches, as of 1 January 2008. The Act now also includes a new provision of reckless endangerment offences which can attract fines of up to \$1.2 million for corporations and public sector agencies while individuals face a maximum fine of \$400,000 or imprisonment of up to five years.

### Is it compulsory to train a responsible officer?

With few exceptions, **every body corporate in South Australia is required to nominate a responsible officer.**

Under the Act, it is mandatory for all nominated responsible officers to attend an approved training course and that newly appointed responsible officers attend compulsory training within three months of their new appointment.

Section 61 of the *Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act 1986* states that **“each body corporate carrying on business in the state must appoint one or more responsible officers or risk a fine of up to \$30,000.**

Responsible officers must ensure that appropriate occupational, health and safety management systems are implemented, taking into consideration the size and nature of activities of their workplace.

The responsible officer appointed in an organisation must be one of the following:

- A member of the governing body of the body corporate who resides in the state;
- The chief executive officer of the body corporate, if he or she resides in the State;
- If no-one outlined above is eligible for appointment, a senior executive officer of the body corporate who resides in the State; or
- If no-one outlined above is eligible for appointment, an officer of the body corporate.

If a responsible officer is not nominated, each officer of the body corporate will be taken to be a responsible officer for the purposes of the Act. A responsible officer can be individually prosecuted and fined if evidence is found that a safety breach was caused in part by a failure of the responsible officer to take reasonable action to prevent the breach. The individual's fine can equal that given to the organisation if it is found that the actions of the responsible officer were negligent.

Responsible officers are compulsory for most organisations, with the possible exception of certain volunteer organisations that are small interest incorporated bodies that collect membership fees from their members. However, it would be prudent for these organisations to establish some systems for managing the group in a safe manner.

The Boards Business Development Officer can provide information in relation to OHS & W responsible officers.

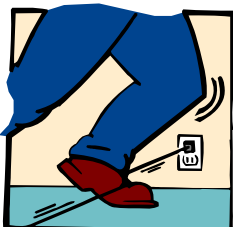
**OCCUPATIONAL  
HEALTH,  
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**“Fostering Economic Development in our Region”**

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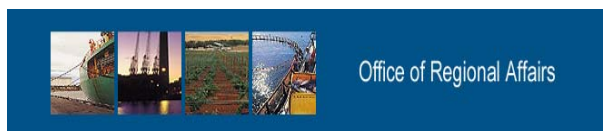
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The Mid North Regional Development Board Inc. (MNRDB) is funded by the South Australian Government through the Office of Regional Affairs in partnership with the Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council and Regional Council of Goyder.

The Board is structured as an independent incorporated body with its own Board of Directors and operates at a strategic level to facilitate economic development and deliver enhanced employment opportunities for the region's rural and tourism based economy.

The Board's vision for economic development is founded on building an economy which is diverse, sustainable and appropriate for the region. Board activities focus on delivering economic and social benefit to the region by increasing the profile of the Mid North and enhancing the regions national competitiveness to provide ongoing employment opportunities for the region's rural community.

We're on the web.  
[www.mnrdb.com.au](http://www.mnrdb.com.au)



**SouthAustraliaWorks**  
linking people, skills and jobs



Clare & Gilbert  
Valleys Council

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