

# The National Youth Employment Body

## Working towards sustainable youth employment while meeting local employer needs

The National Youth Employment Body brings together representatives from the key sectors needed to address youth unemployment – industry, education and training, employment and community – both nationally: to drive change, and locally: to own and develop solutions. The body is fostering collaboration that enables young people, employers, employment agencies, communities and policy makers to effectively respond to youth unemployment.

The body is led by an Advisory Group with representatives from business, education and training, unions, Indigenous communities and government. The Chair is Sam Mostyn, Chair of Citigroup Australia, and the Deputy Chair is Sara Caplan, CEO of PwC's Skills for Australia.

The Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment funded the Brotherhood of St Laurence in 2018 as the enabling organisation responsible for establishing and coordinating the body. Citibank Australia will continue to fund the National Youth Employment Body.

The National Youth Employment Body model is based on evidence and the Brotherhood of St Laurence's practice and research expertise in what works to not only build the skills and capabilities of young people, but also the capability of the community and the broader structural system to support youth employment.

*The National Youth Employment body enables young people, employers, employment agencies, communities and policy makers to effectively respond to youth unemployment.*

### Linking local efforts to national reach

The National Youth Employment Body has committed to an ambitious vision for system and practice change that will improve employment outcomes for young people, business and communities.

It is developing a coordinated and scalable national approach to youth employment that enables young people to secure decent work while addressing the needs of industry for a diverse workforce that can adapt and develop with changing conditions.

By bringing together people from the key sectors that can contribute to solutions the National Youth Employment Body enables a place-based focus with national reach.

Local communities are supported to harness their expertise in co-developing strategies to improve local youth employment pathways. Their work in turn provides real-time community knowledge to national policy makers and experts across industry, employment services and education and training organisations on how to align their efforts to build the capabilities of young people and meet the needs of employers at the local level.

### Key components of the National Youth Employment Body

The National Youth Employment Body achieves its approach of harnessing community effort and government investments to address youth unemployment through these key components:

- The Brotherhood of St Laurence is the **enabling organisation** that provides research, evidence, data, practice expertise and facilitative leadership to build the capacity of local communities to collaborate, and enable the sharing of key learnings between local and national groups and the wider community.
- Local **Community Investment Committees** are the mechanism for key sectors in a community to develop local solutions to address youth unemployment.
- The **National Advisory Group** provides guidance, expertise and access to networks and opportunities that support the Community Investment Committees to find community solutions. It marshals evidence and develops consistent strategies and practices that in turn are used to inform policy at a national level.
- **Employers** drive investment in the skills and capabilities of young people by co-designing work-entry pathways that align the aspirations and interests of young people with business needs.
- **Young people** share their experiences of navigating employment systems and contribute to decision-making locally and nationally to ensure actions and strategies are fit for purpose.

*The National Youth Employment Body is funded by the Department of Education, Skills and Employment and Citibank Australia.*

