

MEDIA RELEASE



It's great to be eight - Birthday News from the Career Development Centre

Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast's Career Development Centre (CDC) in Mount Gambier celebrates its 8th Birthday this week, with a network function at the CDC in James Street and staff planning workshops for the future.

Helen Strickland, who initiated and manages the Career Development Centre said;

"The Career Development Centre has become an important part of the region because we provide a service that helps people take control of their career. The CDC staff pride themselves on treating each person with care and consideration. "

Ms Strickland acknowledged the important part that other services play.

"The CDC team prefer to work with other services and know that we are part of the services available – we often refer to other services and take our partnerships seriously."

Reflecting on changes since the CDC began, Ms Strickland was particularly pleased with the role that the region has played in the development of state wide services

"The CDC has led service innovation that influences policy. We have supported the development of other career services and are seen as a model across the state for best practice. Our service has led to the development of state policy and services for career development."

Over the last year the CDC engaged with over 1700 people from across the region, either individually or in workshops. An important part of their work has been with retrenched workers.

"We support people for as long as they need us, and have been delighted with the outcomes they have achieved."

The following are CDC statistics from 2006 to the present:

- 53.1% of participants are women, 46.9% are men
- 40.7% are over 45
- 2.1% are Indigenous
- 8.5% have a Disability
- 5% are migrants
- Almost 3,000 visits are made per month to the website www.cdc.org.au .
- 75% of these visit the daily vacancy update.
- 65% of participants gain employment
- 22.7% go into study

Future directions for the CDC in 2014 include developing new markets, working with industry, workshop development and developing partnerships across the region.

The CDC is an initiative of Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast with funding through a variety of sources including *Skills for Jobs in Regions*. For further information please contact Helen Strickland: Manager: Skills, Career and Workforce Development on 87231057 or 0458 198 817 or go to www.cdc.org.au

