

MEDIA RELEASE

SAFETY IN NUMBERS: LIMESTONE COAST SECURITY JOBS INCREASE

The Limestone Coast now has a bolstered security presence with 15 people from across the region completing comprehensive security guard training. Funded by the South Australian Government's Department of State Development (DSD), Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast (RDALC) Career Services co-ordinated the recent training program to provide subsidised training in Certificate II in Security Operations to local jobseekers, in response to a shortage of skilled workers in the state's south-east.

"We were approached by a Naracoorte security firm that was having difficulties finding qualified staff as there hasn't been any local training available through TAFE since 2010," explains RDALC project support officer Maree Beale. "Once we identified the industry objectives and potential job opportunities, we were able to secure funding from the State Government to bring qualified instructors down from Adelaide."

Funded by the Department of State Development, Limestone Coast Career Services provides a service to regional communities by supporting and facilitating work readiness, and aims to build the regional workforce by increasing both skill and participation levels. Naracoorte, Mount Gambier and Kingston-based participants aged from 18-45 completed 17 modules of online training during July-August before undertaking the 5-day practical component in Naracoorte in September.

Limestone Coast Security helped to co-ordinate the training, and owner, David Ghezzi, praised the RDALC for delivering the project.

"We were looking to offer our own licensed training but kept hitting brick walls, so I decided to approach RDALC, and within months they made it happen," Mr Ghezzi says. "We now have 15 newly qualified people from right across the region, which gives us a lot of scope for future workers - even though we don't have a lot of full-time opportunities down here, there is plenty of casual work available for alarm response, security patrols, and crowd and venue control."

Several graduates have already expressed an interest in completing a Certificate III in Security Operations, which includes bodyguard and cash-in-transit training. RDALC Career Services says anyone wishing to gain a foothold in the security industry is encouraged to register their interest.

"One of our key aims is to help individuals make informed choices regarding education, training or work, and we are particularly keen to connect people out of school, out of work, out of training, under employed or unemployed," Maree Beale says.

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For further information contact:-

Mr David Wheaton, Chief Executive Officer

Ph: 87231057 or Mobile 0417 885 920

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