

Support for Whyalla-based workers

The South Australian Government is partnering with local support organisations to assist those who have experienced job loss, interruption to training, or business challenges associated with the reduced capacity of Whyalla's steelworks.

Workers navigating redundancy, job loss or reduced hours can now access personalised career counselling to support their transition into another role or career.

Delivered by RDA Eyre Peninsula (RDAEP) in partnership with Resources and Engineering Skills Alliance (RESA), the Career Transition Service aims to equip each participant with a tailored career plan, which may include referrals to free accredited training.

This training, subsidised by the South Australian Government for contractors and workers impacted by the current downturn in Whyalla's steelmaking, includes access to opportunities such as:

- Fee Free TAFE and other vocational education and training (VET) courses available on the Subsidised Training List,
- Recognition of Prior Learning,
- Accredited occupational tickets and high-risk licences (e.g. forklift, whitecard, first aid, confined space, elevated work platform).

To receive career counselling and access to these no-cost training opportunities, register with the Career Transition Service: resa.org.au/careertransitionsupport

Apprentices who are unable to continue with their employer are encouraged to register with the Apprentice Employment Network SA (AEN SA).

AEN SA, in partnership with the South Australian Skills Commission and group training organisations operating in Whyalla, is working to connect impacted apprentices with new host employers. Fees associated with the transfer to a new employer will be waived.

A South Australian Government supported Apprentice Retention Program will also ensure eligible apprentices can progress with their off-job training and be paid wages for up to six months while a new employer is identified.

Apprentices who are entering their final, fourth year of study will be prioritised for early completion of their apprenticeship.

To access this support, register with the Apprentice Employment Network SA (AEN SA) via telephone (08) 8346 2227 or aensa.com.au/contact-us.

Impacted apprentices can also contact the South Australian Skills Commission via telephone 1800 673 097 or email skillscommission@sa.gov.au.

Frequently Asked Questions – workers

What is the Career Transition Service?

Delivered by RDA Eyre Peninsula (RDAEP) in partnership with Resources and Engineering Skills Alliance (RESA), the Career Transition Service provides eligible workers with access to professional and personalised career counselling.

A Career Practitioner can help with job search and resume advice, provide information on employment opportunities in the region, and links to other support organisations.

They'll also work with participants to develop a tailored and individualised career transition plan – identifying the fee-free vocational education and training participants can undertake to support their transition to new employment.

What free training can I access?

Training subsidised by the South Australian Government through this initiative may include:

- vocational education and training qualifications as listed on the [Subsidised Training List](#), and/or
- vocational education and training occupational tickets and high-risk licences (e.g. forklift, first aid, confined space).

Visit mytraining.skills.sa.gov.au/training/get-started/check-eligibility to check your eligibility to enrol in subsidised training.

The following activities will not be funded:

- accredited training under Training Contract arrangements,
- qualifications not available on the subsidised training list,
- higher education qualifications,
- purchase of tools and equipment or PPE clothing,
- industry licences and clearance (e.g. police clearances, security licences),
- travel or accommodation, or
- wage subsidies.

Am I eligible?

Free training opportunities are available to workers and contractors from the Whyalla steelworks and its supply chain who have been impacted by loss of work from 1 May 2024.

To access these free training opportunities, impacted workers must:

- live in South Australia,
- be over 16 years of age,
- be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, a permanent Australian resident or eligible visa holder.

Workers who do not meet the criteria above may be able to access assistance from other support organisations. The Career Practitioner can help you identify these opportunities.

How can I access free training?

1. Complete the [Registration Form](https://resa.org.au/careertransitionsupport) available from the Career Transition Service:

Registration is not an approval to enrol in training.



2. Once you have met with a Career Practitioner, and identified what training you are seeking to undertake, they can help you to identify a training organisation and gain approval.

This training must be linked to your career transition plan.

Pre-approval to undertake training is mandatory (i.e. before you enrol with the training organisation). Training which has already been completed or paid for cannot be reimbursed.

3. If approved, you and the training organisation will receive an email from the Career Transition Service to confirm the training being funded and the enrolment process.

Workers must be enrolled in approved training before 30 June 2025.

Where can I go for help?

Paula Wilson, Career Development Practitioner

Available: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Email: paula.wilson@rdaep.org.au

Phone: 0405 932 711

City of Whyalla Council, 21 Grundel St, Whyalla Norrie SA 5608



Frequently Asked Questions – apprentices

What help is available to Whyalla-based apprentices?

The South Australian Government is helping apprentices who have been displaced due to the reduced capacity of Whyalla's steelworks to retain and progress their apprenticeships.

Displaced apprentices are encouraged to register with the Apprentice Employment Network SA (AEN SA) to access support, wages, and placement with a new host employer.

Am I eligible for this support?

The Whyalla Apprentice Retention Package is designed to support apprentices who are (or were) physically employed in the LGA boundaries of the City of Whyalla, and:

- Are at risk of having their training contract terminated, or are already subject to a pending or active training contract suspension, or
- Whose apprenticeship has been terminated arising from a downturn in their employer's business on or after 1 February 2025.

Apprentices working in areas of high skills demand are in scope for this support, including construction and trade workers, hairdressers, butchers, bakers, cooks, agricultural workers and other technicians.

Contact the SA Skills Commission for the full list of eligible occupations.

Where can I go for help?

Please contact AEN SA via telephone (08) 8346 2227 or aensa.com.au/contact-us.

Impacted apprentices can also contact the South Australian Skills Commission via telephone 1800 673 097 or email skillscommission@sa.gov.au for further support.



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