



Australian Government

Remote Australia Employment Service

What are Community Projects?

Community projects are a key feature of the Remote Australia Employment Service (RAES).

They are developed in close partnership with community to support job seekers to learn and develop in 'work experience' type activities that communities have said they want and need.

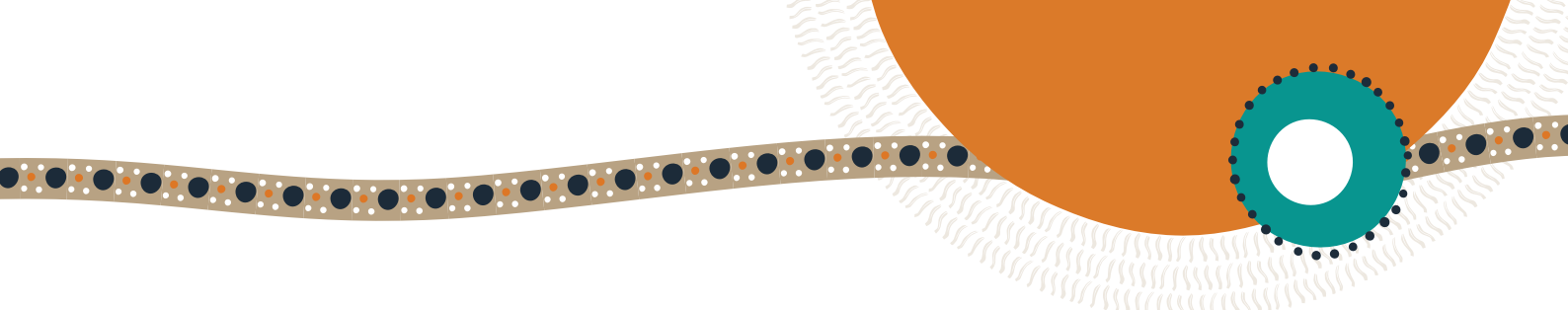
'Community' may include job seekers, Elders, young people, local businesses, community organisations, and other local stakeholders. Having this input makes sure projects are informed by the needs and priorities of the broader community.

Having community projects embedded in RAES means there is more engagement with job seekers, helping them gain experience and build skills to get ready for a job.

Community projects are designed to prepare people for long-term employment opportunities beyond the RAES. Allowing people access to training and work experience can support them to become job-ready so they can transition to long term employment through the RAES program or other employment opportunities, including through the [Remote Jobs and Economic Development \(RJED\) program](#).

How do community projects work?

- ✓ 25% percent of provider funding is dedicated to developing and delivering community projects that engage job seekers in meaningful opportunities that lead to employment and support enterprise development - social enterprise, industry development, work readiness and community initiatives.
- ✓ This approach has been tested and proven to work through job trials with over 18,000 remote job seekers gaining access to paid work experience, mentoring and training incentives and 3,000 people into job placements.
- ✓ All providers must facilitate and/or deliver community projects.



Examples of community projects

Projects can look different depending on community needs and wishes, and the types of activities that can be realistically done.

Some examples of projects could be:

- ✓ A slow build construction training program to help jobseekers gain carpentry and other skills.
- ✓ Establishing a work crew to provide community maintenance on a fee-for-service basis.
- ✓ Building and maintaining a community garden where you give away or sell the produce.
- ✓ A small café selling morning teas/lunches to the community, providing hospitality and food preparation training.
- ✓ Upskilling to build a workforce to move into aged care positions.
- ✓ Community-led driving school with paid vehicle maintenance placements for pathways to mechanical apprenticeships.

How can job seekers take part in a community project?

Job seekers are encouraged to take part in community projects, but it is not a mandatory requirement.

Job seekers need to agree on a Job Plan with their RAES provider that includes their interests, aspirations and what support they might need to address any barriers to employment.

Providers need to develop community projects work plans, that include evidence on how projects are designed and support community aspirations.

Providers can then identify job opportunities in a community project to match potential job seekers based on the information collected in a Job Plan.

Do people get paid under community projects?

They can be. If a participant is placed in a paid job through a community project, they receive award wages for the hours worked.

As these are real jobs, when people work, they earn income. Like other employees receiving income support payments they need to report this to Services Australia and their income support payment (e.g. JobSeeker Payment) will reduce as they work more hours and the income they get from their job increases.



For more information

Visit niaa.gov.au/remote-services

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