

Youth Unemployment At 14.3% in the Riverina region

A report released this week has revealed unemployment "hotspots" for young people in NSW to find the Coffs Harbour – Grafton region is the second worst area for youth unemployment nationally with more than 20% of young people in the labour force unemployed.

While the state's youth unemployment rate was 10.1%, below the national rate of 11.2%, some regions were well above it, says the report published by national anti-poverty group the Brotherhood of St Laurence.

Youth unemployment rates for NSW's five worst youth unemployment "hotspots" are (from Australian Bureau of Statistics data using the 12-month average to December 2018):

- 23.3% in the Coffs Harbour - Grafton region, including Nambucca Heads, Bellingen, Yamba, Dorrigo

- 14.3 % in the New England and North West region, including Armidale, Moree, Tamworth, Tenterfield

- 14.3% in the Riverina region, including Griffith, Wagga Wagga, Tumut, Junee

- 13.7% in the Central Coast region, including Gosford, The Entrance, Woy Woy and Budgewoi

- 13.3% in the Hunter Valley region, excluding Newcastle, including Nelson Bay, Singleton, Cessnock, Muswellbrook and Merriwa

Three regions of west and south-west Sydney also experienced rates above the national average:

- 12.4% in the Sydney - South West region, including Badgerys Creek, Greendale, Fairfield West, Liverpool

- 11.7% in the Sydney - Blacktown region, including Blacktown, Rooty Hill, Eastern Creek

- 11.6% in the Sydney - Parramatta region, including Parramatta, North Rock, Auburn, Lidcombe

An estimated 75,300 young people aged 15 to 24 were unemployed in NSW in December 2018.

The Brotherhood's disturbing analysis, *Smashing the Avocado Debate*, finds that across Australia the youth unemployment rate is stagnating at the levels seen in the early 2000s, despite 28 years of economic growth.

The 11.2% national youth unemployment rate is more than twice Australia's overall unemployment rate (5%), at December 2018, and almost three times the unemployment rate of those aged 25 and over. Across Australia, this translates to a quarter of a million young people who are still unemployed.

In the lead up to a federal election, the Brotherhood's Executive Director, Conny Lenneberg, challenged policymakers to give Australia's young people a fair go, including advancing solutions for the unprecedented challenges the emerging generation faces in the world of work in the 21st century.

"Young people come out of education and training with high hopes and aspirations for independence. It's devastating that despite 28 years of continuous economic growth, too many young Australians are locked out of the prosperity dividend," Ms Lenneberg said.

The report maps the 20 worst "hotspot" regions for youth unemployment across Australia – including the Coffs Harbour - Grafton region and the New England and North West region in NSW – and confirms many regional and outer suburban areas bear the heaviest burden.

Ms Lenneberg said the latest "hotspots"

revelation smashed stereotypes about young people and called for a more sophisticated public debate about the emerging generation's challenges.

"These figures belie stereotypes about young people. We know from our research and the experience of our services that many young people are doing it tough," she said.

"Yet young people are too often depicted in simplistic terms of consumers of overpriced smashed-avocado toast with a fascination for selfies, and that's plain wrong."

The Brotherhood's report says young Australians are moving into adulthood while the nation is also navigating a period of testing social and economic change due to the interconnected challenges posed by globalisation, technology, climate change and demographic change.

"We remain especially concerned at how young people without qualifications and skills or family networks are tracking in this rapidly changing economic and social environment," Ms Lenneberg said.

"To secure the future labour force and create opportunities for decent work, we need structural solutions that drill down to local job markets and infrastructure challenges."

"We also know from our practical experience that all young jobseekers in Australia need to have access to a specialist youth employment service, a one-stop-shop dedicated to their needs, whereas currently we still have a fragmented response to employment services for young people."

Hilltops Crime Stats

Hilltops Crime Statistics for the last two years ending in December 2018 have found the following figures.

109 domestic violence related assaults, 101 non domestic violence assaults, 19 sexual assaults, 32 indecent assaults - acts of indecency - or other sexual offences. 2 robberies without a weapon. No robberies with a firearm were recorded although there was a shooting in Young this year which fell outside of the recording period.

50 dwellings were broken into while 32 offences were recorded for break and enter non dwelling.

42 motor vehicles were stolen while 79 offences were recorded for steal from motor vehicle. Retail stores suffered with 44 offences of steal from retail store.

Steal from dwelling occurred 78 times while malicious damage to property was at 222 offences while fraud offences were listed at 72.

MHS Swimming Stars

On Thursday 21st February a pleasing number of our students travelled to Tumut to compete in the Southern Slopes Zone Swimming Carnival. It was a really warm day, making students eager to get into the pool for their events.

All students swam exceptionally well and represented the school with maturity and pride.

Out of the students who attended the carnival, 12 were successful in making it onto the Riverina Carnival, which was held in Leeton on Monday 4th March, this included our senior girls and 15 year girls relay teams.

Students who will be competed at the Riverina Carnival included; Hayley Brownlie, Jasmin Chesworth, James Daley, Loren Daley, Jade Emms, Madalyn Emms, Samantha Emms, Hayley Hambrook, Aiden Hill, Regan Manton, Emily Schulz and Abbey Wade. Well done to all students!

Ms Ali Spencer

Trinity Headed For Writer's Day

Harden Schools Writers Day: Years 3-6 will attend the all-day Writers' Workshop at Murrumburrah Public School on Thursday 7th March. Trinity students will get off their buses at MPS at the beginning of the day & will catch the bus home from MPS at the end of the day. If you drop off or pick up your child, please do so from MPS. Students need to be in full school uniform and please bring their hat, water bottle and recess on the day. A free BBQ lunch will be provided by HDEF. This is a wonderful day for our students, where they will rotate around a variety of workshops throughout the day. This is held in conjunction with the upcoming Jugiong Writers Festival, held on the 23-24 March 2019

New South Wales State Election March 23

The March 23 State election is fast approaching with the ballot draw announced today at 10:00am for the 93 lower house Electorates across the State.

Harden's Mark Douglass will be standing for Labor, Harden's Matthew Stadtmiller for the Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party, Steph Cooke, the current Member will be standing for the Nationals, Jeffrey Passlow for the Greens and Jim Saleam as an

independent based on no information on the website in regards to political affiliation.

Corflutes are in trees and printed material has started to hit mail boxes. Pre-poll opens in Cowra, Young, Temora and Cootamundra on Monday March 11.

28th February -13 March @TACCC



Movie: Boy, Erased
(MA15+)

Wednesday 6 @
10:30am & 7pm and
Sunday 10 @ 5pm

Felting workshop
Saturday 2 March
1-3pm \$60pp

SAVE THE DATES

Return to the River
performances;
Friday 15 & Saturday 16
Workshop Saturday 16

Voice, Drama, Mysteries by TST
Directed by Isabel Scott
Performances of two short plays
22 – 24 & 29/30 March

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