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PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Official Newsletter of the
Perth Area Consultative Committee

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from the information contained in it.

Christmas Edition - 2005



Vision

The growth and development of the whole of Perth region which integrates economic, social and environmental opportunities to ensure the needs of both current and future generations are met.

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"Coming together is a beginning

Staying together is progress

Working together is success"



*The Perth ACC office will be closed for the Christmas break
from December 21, 2005 through to January 16, 2006.*



*The Chair, Management Committee and staff of The Perth
ACC wish you a safe and Happy Christmas and look forward to future
successful partnerships in the new year.*

Key points regarding Regional Partnership funding

- ◆ Although Regional Partnerships is a discretionary program, approval rates are high nationally with 70% of all RP Project Submissions approved to date. Perth ACC has had 93% of its submitted projects approved for funding.
- ◆ The national Regional Partnerships budget for 2005/6 is \$111 million, and over the next 4 years, the budget is \$360 million.
- ◆ Over \$161 million of Regional Partnerships money has been approved, this funding has attracted \$391 million in cash and \$67 million in kind contributions from partners. This means that for every dollar the Australian government has invested in these projects, it has attracted around \$3 from partnerships.
- ◆ Project proposals must have clear outcomes, have the backing of other partners, be sustainable and make a real difference to communities
- ◆ Regional Partnerships should not be used for cost shifting of responsibilities by other agencies and levels of government.
- ◆ In general terms, proposals should limit Regional Partnerships requests to 40% of the total project value (Proponents/partners to provide 60% via cash/in-kind).
- ◆ DOTARS advise that for projects seeking \$25,000 or less the expected assessment period is around 8 weeks. For \$25,000 or over, the expected assessment period is around 12 weeks.
- ◆ Infrastructure projects are acceptable under Regional Partnerships.



Key points regarding Regional Partnership funding (cont)

To help stimulate ideas on suitable funding projects, we have details of Regional Partnerships approvals in other Metropolitan areas across Australia. The range of projects funded has been diverse, reflecting the local issues of communities and specific solutions to address these needs. If you would like details on these projects, please contact our office or check the Regional Partnerships page on our website.



Please note that you should treat these details as a guide rather than the basis of "copy cat" submissions.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or any of the Perth ACC team if you need clarification on these matters, or better still, if you have a potential project to discuss.

ABS Statistics now free of charge

Businesses and community groups can now benefit from accessing free statistical information on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) website. Electronic versions of most ABS publications are now available for download free of charge, whilst printed copies will still incur a fee. To access these statistics, visit: www.abs.gov.au



Funds for innovative employment projects

Employment Innovation Fund (EIF) came into being on 1 July 2003 and operates as a component of Job Network, with funding of \$4 million over four years being provided. The EIF is a discretionary funding programme designed to provide seed funding to organisations to develop innovative approaches to resolve specific labour market problems and open up employment opportunities. Funding of up to \$100,000 for up to 12 months is available for projects that address a specific employment or labour market problem in an innovative way. Successful projects will provide best practice models which can be used to improve employment outcomes on a broader scale.

The main objectives of the fund will be to trial ideas that:

- o promote innovative, community-based action on employment
- o address specific employment and labour market problems; and
- o alleviate the social consequences of local unemployment.

Points to note:

- o EIF will not be available if an alternative source of Government funding readily is available.
- o Projects will also need to demonstrate that they do not provide a competitive advantage to, or compete with, individual organisations (including Job Network members and Community Work Coordinators).
- o Funding applications may be submitted at any time during the financial year.
- o Projects must have the support of relevant local community organisations and/or business groups
- o Projects should have linkages with relevant employment services providers.
- o We seek the opinion of the relevant Area Consultative Committee.

Individuals or organisations seeking funds under EIF will be required to submit a comprehensive Proposal Form and a Financial Viability Form.

For more information, go to www.workplace.gov.au and look under business assistance for organisations or email eif@dewr.gov.au

Interesting Labour Market Statistics

WA - During the months of July and August this year WA had the lowest rate of unemployment of all Australian states, the lowest since the late 1970s. This decrease in unemployment was underpinned by the strong employment growth observed in WA throughout the year – up by 6.6% to September. Better still, the latest ABS figures for WA show the unemployment rate at 4% - the lowest of any state and is the 15th month that it has been continuously under the 5% mark, which has been historically hard to surpass in the Australia economy.

More good news for WA – the level of full-time employment has increased over the year by 7.0% with part-time positions increasing by 4.0%. Combining this with the fact that WA's trend participation rate is at least 1.5% higher than any of the other states, WA is certainly leading the way in the Labour Market.

Australia – Other states didn't fair as well as WA, as the national unemployment rate remained at 5.1%. The seasonally adjusted national rate in October was 5.2%, according to the ABS. However, the national employment rate increased by 0.3% in August and by 4.2% for the year to August 2005, making it the highest annual employment growth in Australia in a decade. Another record high was the national participation rate which increased in August to 64.8%.

Other interesting facts:

- ◆ WA's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased from 4.4% to 4.1% between August and September. *This is the lowest rate of unemployment in WA since 1976.*
- ◆ The number of unemployed persons decreased by 3.0% or 1,500 persons in September 2005 to 47,800. This was 3.4% or 1,700 more than the number in September last year.
- ◆ WA's participation rate fell from 68.1% to 67.6% in October, but this figure is still the best of any other state.
- ◆ WA's youth unemployment rate (15-19 year olds seeking full time work) decreased over the year, to September, by 1.5%
- ◆ Nationally, fulltime employment decreased by 60,800 to 7.01 million, while part-time increased by 41,000 to 2.91 million.
- ◆ Part time employment comprises 28.8% of total employment in WA.

Perth Area Consultative Committee Inc.

226 Great Eastern Highway, Belmont WA 6104

PO Box 346, Belmont WA 6984

T: (08) 9478 1000 F: (08) 9478 1011

E: admin@perthacc.com.au W: www.perthacc.com.au



Australian Government

Department of Transport and Regional Services