

David New

Toowoomba, Queensland | ✉ david.new@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Experienced regional leader in workforce development, strategic collaboration, and community engagement. As Jobs Coordinator for Workforce Australia Local Jobs (Darling Downs), I chair the Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce, lead the region's Local Jobs Plan, and deliver initiatives that help local businesses attract, develop and retain the skilled workforce they need.

With 30 years' experience across small-business ownership, regional program leadership, and stakeholder engagement, I bring a strong understanding of business challenges and practical, strategic insight. Recognised for collaborative leadership and cross-sector partnerships, I work closely with government, industry and regional chambers to align business and workforce priorities and strengthen regional competitiveness and growth.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Chairs the Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce, overseeing workforce priorities through the Local Jobs Plan.
 - Led the Local Jobs program to the highest service rating from the Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.
 - Strengthened partnerships across multiple sectors, connecting businesses with practical workforce solutions and government support.
 - Winner, *Business Excellence Awards 2021* (BEST Employment) Community / Not-for-Profit; Highly Commended, *Multicultural Queensland Awards (2021)*.
 - Serves on Toowoomba Regional Council's Multicultural Advisory Committee, Toowoomba International Multicultural Society management committee, co-organiser Toowoomba's annual multicultural festival.
-

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Jobs Coordinator – Workforce Australia Local Jobs (Darling Downs)

Regional Development Australia DDSW | Sept 2022 – Present

- Coordinate regional workforce initiatives under the Workforce Australia Local Jobs program, delivering projects that help employers address skills shortages and workforce challenges.
- Chair the Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce, aligning business, industry and government around shared workforce priorities.
- Author and oversee delivery of the *Local Jobs Plan*, ensuring strategies meet employer needs and support business growth.
- Work with local, state and federal stakeholders to progress practical workforce and economic initiatives.
- Collaborate with employers and community partners to improve employment participation for migrants, refugees, First Nations, People with Disability, and other under-represented groups.

Regional Manager – BUSY At Work

Toowoomba | May 2022 – Sept 2022

- Helped establish BUSY At Work's new employment services contract across South West Queensland.
- Expanded employer relationships and improved outcomes for priority cohorts.

Business Development Manager / Team Leader / Employer Specialist – BEST Employment Ltd

Darling Downs | 2018 – 2022

- Drove strategic employer partnerships and initiatives to improve workforce participation across Southern Queensland and Northern NSW.
 - Built strong relationships with regional employers, tailoring recruitment and retention solutions to business needs.
 - Managed site operations and staff in Toowoomba, ensuring effective service delivery.
-

EARLIER CAREER

Earlier career included founding and managing small businesses in marketing, hospitality and tech:

- Manager – The Coffee Club, Toowoomba (2017–2018)
 - Managing Director – Hollybush Group Ltd (UK, 2015–2017)
 - Director – Canal 125 Ltd (UK, 2011–2015)
 - Founding Director – Textalert (UK, 2008–2011)
 - Founding Director – Plug UK (UK, 2000–2007)
-

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT & ADVOCACY

- Active engaged in regional workforce and economic initiatives that support business growth and broaden participation across First Nations, mature-age, migrant, refugee and disability communities.
 - Regularly collaborate with chambers, councils and business networks to inform workforce and skills planning.
-

EDUCATION

- Master of Business Studies – University of Kent (UK)
 - Bachelor of Arts (Political Science & International Relations) – University of Reading (UK)
 - Wesley College, Melbourne
-

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

- Fellow – Institute of Employability Professionals (Australia), 2025
- Winner – Focus HR Business Excellence Awards, Community / Not-for-Profit: BEST Employment (*Toowoomba Chamber*, 2021)
- Highly Commended – Multicultural Queensland Awards, Diversity & Inclusion Champion (2021)