

## **Smart+Connected - Labour & Skills programme**

It's been six months since this programme has moved from the establishment phase to the first meeting of the steering group.

We are delighted with its progress and wanted to give you an update.

The following six work streams have been developed under the Smart+Connected - Labour & Skills programme:

Steering working group:

- **Employer's working group**
- **Engaged Rangatahi/Youth working group**
- **Housing working group**
- **55+ working group**
- **Skills hub working group**

At the national Economic Development New Zealand conference last month, Marlborough Smart+Connected was selected as the overall winner!

According to the judges, the Smart+Connected programme won as it was an early adopter of two critical elements of contemporary economic development theory:

- a focus on environmental, social and governance outcomes as well as economic objectives
- a focus on inclusivity and participation on the part of industries and communities in a structured co-design processes.

## **Labour & Skills programme steering group**

The steering group meets monthly to support the work streams and identify opportunities. We coordinate across the different work streams and manage joint actions such as submissions on government proposals.



Please contact Vance Kerslake (pictured) '[advocacy@winemarlborough.nz](mailto:advocacy@winemarlborough.nz)' or Michelle Reynolds '[Michelle.Reynolds@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:Michelle.Reynolds@marlborough.govt.nz)' for further information.

The Smart + Connected Steering Groups's vision is that **“Marlborough supports a future-facing and sustainable economy with opportunities for all, where training, mentoring and innovative career pathways reflect a strong connection between industry and education.”**

### **Employer's working group**

The Employers Working Group is focusing on supporting local employers to attract and retain great people and develop a thriving workplace culture.

Before it jumps into specific projects the group wants to get a sense from employers on the specific challenges and opportunities relating to people and culture within their workplace. A ten question climate/culture survey will be released soon and will stay open until the beginning of the New Year.

The group is also keen to support and promote some of the other initiatives that are being worked on, such as the Marlborough Cadetship programme and the Youth Employment Success (YES) programme - <https://youthemployer.nz/>. These are two concepts that are seen to be able to help employers attract and retain critical talent.

For further information, contact **Lucy MacLean** at [lucy@hortus.co.nz](mailto:lucy@hortus.co.nz).

### **Engaged Rangatahi/Youth working group**

Marlborough has the highest number of NEETs (young people not in education, employment or training) in the South Island. As such, they have organized a group visit to NMIT as an introduction to career opportunities for NEETs. This group is seen as a priority for this work stream.

This group has also completed an education and training stock take for Marlborough. This has been edited and is ready to circulate as a living document.

They are also hoping to roll out the Youth Employment programme (YES programme) in Marlborough over the coming months.

For more information, please contact **Darlene Purdie** at [darlenep@psusi.org.nz](mailto:darlenep@psusi.org.nz).



### **Housing working group**

This group believes they can add value to the development of this strategy in two specific areas; development/construction market, and Rangatahi/Youth, as these groups are currently less well represented on the Marlborough Housing Group.

The Housing Working Group has agreed that the priority action for the work stream should be the development of a Housing Strategy for Marlborough, so they are collaborating with the Marlborough Housing Group on developing this.

For more details please contact Vance Kerslake at [advocacy@winemarlborough.nz](mailto:advocacy@winemarlborough.nz).

### **55+ working group**

The overall focus of this group is to facilitate the engagement and interconnection of the 55+ age group with opportunities in the work force. The group meet on the fourth Thursday of each month, prior to the Steering Group meetings.

A survey is being developed to gather data from the 55+ age group regarding their employment aspirations in the future. If you know of anyone over 55, please encourage them to complete the following survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EmpinRet>.

The focus is on helping the 55+ age group who are seeking work, wanting to change their work patterns or wind down their work commitments to connect with employers who value the experience and skills of people in this age group. It is also hoped that this will reduce the number of vacancies that employers are carrying at present in Marlborough. One way of achieving this is via a website. Further investigation is being made into this opportunity.

The group is also looking into flexible employment policies, and examples are being sort.

For more details please contact **Peter Kemp** at [peterkemp@xtra.co.nz](mailto:peterkemp@xtra.co.nz).



## **Skills hub working group**

This group is looking at creating an online presence where visitors and locals can see where skills shortages are, not just by industry but also by skills/jobs. The group's intention is that this website will be the front door for all of the other working groups also.

Another initiative being developed by this group is to establish a six monthly Labour & Skills survey that will go out and capture as much live data as possible on available skills in this region.

For further information, please contact James Ryan at [JamesR@mbc.school.nz](mailto:JamesR@mbc.school.nz).