

Media release



yourtown welcomes new funding boost to long-term unemployed youth

yourtown welcomes new funding of more than \$1.5 million for training, work preparation and paid work experience to cut a path for 192 young adults, aged 15-24, to secure skills and enhance their future outlook and achieve economic security," said **yourtown** CEO Tracy Adams.

"There is no doubt long-term youth unemployment remains an ongoing and urgent challenge in Queensland and across Australia. This funding will help many young people achieve work-ready skills to achieve economic security, and create the path they want for themselves," said Ms Adams.

As we head into a fresh funding agreement under the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative, we thank the Queensland government for continuing to invest in **yourtown** as a leading provider of critical service offerings to deliver tailored support across seven South East Queensland projects focussing on youth employment outcomes," says Ms Adams.

"Young people aged 15-24, with little or no work experience are especially vulnerable without targeted intervention, young adults are at a high risk of missing out on entering the labour market and, therefore, of being financially disadvantaged and even being welfare dependent for their whole lives. Long-term unemployed young people are also at greater risk of experiencing mental health concerns," Ms Adams continued.

"Employment can be a pathway for maintaining better mental health and life outcomes and helps with social connectedness with others," she said.

Ms Adams said "**yourtown** will utilise the funding to ease the obstacles of long-term unemployment by increasing **yourtown's** capacity to meet increased demand for their service offerings.

"The benefits provided by gaining new skills and experience really has a powerful ripple effect, positively impacting the lives of young people, their families, friends, neighbourhoods and the wider community. We remain young people-centric in everything we do," said Ms Adams.

"Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, young people aged 15-24 were already disproportionately adversely affected in the labour market when compared to other age groups," Ms Adams concluded.

yourtown is a charitable organisation, funded primarily by the community, that powers a range of service offerings to help children and young people realise they have the ability to tackle whatever life throws at them.

For more information or to arrange a media interview please contact Maree Reason-Cain, **yourtown** Corporate Affairs & Media Advisor on 0423 843 786 or mreason-cain@yourtown.com.au