

Logan Together Foundation Roadmap –Project scoping

Project title: Develop a comprehensive local employment strategy, targeting families and jobless households

Strategic or Chapter-based project: Employment, Training and Engagement Chapter

Short description: Along with stable housing, the central importance of economic stability to good household functioning is widely recognised. This project aims to create a long-term strategic response to unemployment in Logan with a particular focus on families with young children and jobless households. The project aims to build on existing employment and local economic development activities to create a long-term community-wide response.

What results does it help Logan Together to achieve?

Foundation Roadmap scoreboard outcome (life stage)

This project is seen as an underpinning project relevant across the life course and is important to the achievement of all Logan Together life stage goals.

Target

The project group will need to establish a measurement framework and targets for this project, however a reduction in the number of jobless families, particularly where parents are aged under 25 would likely be important.

Indicators (how do we know the outcome is being achieved)

As above

Why will it help achieve those results?

Among the most highly correlated factors associated with children doing poorly in Year 3 NAPLAN is those children living in a two parent household with no person employed.

Long Term unemployment is highly correlated with social isolation, high levels of mobility, alcohol and substance misuse, poorer mental health, family violence and other factors that directly impact child wellbeing and child development.

Project details:

This project is yet to be fully scoped, but its focus on a long-term strategic approach to boosting employment, particularly in families with young children is of central relevance to Logan Together's aims of improving child development outcomes.

A working group comprising the three levels of Government and employment industry representatives is in the early stages of shaping the project. Its focus may include the following:

- Long term job demand forecasting and the creation of vocational education, training and employment placements in key industries

- Targeted support to young parents under 19 to complete education and gain experience of work
- Supporting the transition back to work of parents once their youngest children are of school age
- Explore special employment and support strategies for sole-parent households and determine the ability to scale existing programs citywide. This program should focus on the twin objectives of supporting employment, whilst bolstering family support and care arrangements.
- Create local economic development opportunities that drive local job creation and stimulate the “foundational economy” to create consumption of local services and create local jobs.
- Create family support + employment packages for two parent households with no parent employed

Data and scale:

In Logan 29% of children in low income households live in families where welfare is the main source of income. This compares with the Queensland average of 22.6%.

The number of children under 15 in Logan where there is no employment in the household is 18.8% compared with Queensland at 14.3%.

Partners:

A working group comprising all three levels of Government has already been established and will soon reach out to partners in the employment services sector and the wider community.

Co-design:

Understanding the perspective of families experiencing unemployment and parents trying to juggle child care and work on very low incomes are essential co-design partners.

Quick wins:

The project group will determine quick wins.