

Committee for Ballarat Leaders in Action taking the baton on workforce development

Eight members of the Committee for Ballarat's Leaders in Action group are taking to the streets to spread the word to local businesses on the benefits of workforce planning. At an induction workshop on Friday, graduates from Leadership Ballarat and Western Region learnt how simple and important workforce planning is for the future of any business. Members of the project group bring their human resources and industry specific skills and knowledge to the table across the areas of manufacturing, tourism, agriculture and health.

"To remain competitive businesses must focus on attracting, developing and retaining a skilled workforce", says Regional Development Victoria's Regional Strategy Manager Mr Ian Dreher. "As our workforce ages the competition for skills will only increase so knowing what skills you need, when you'll need them and how to get them are critical to business success" he adds.

With a grant from the RDA Grampians Committee the Committee for Ballarat are running the Workforce Development Sector Champions project. The project will deliver workforce planning support to businesses in the manufacturing, tourism, health and agriculture sectors. Grampians RDA Chair, Mr Stuart Benjamin says "taking simple messages and practical workforce planning tools to businesses through the activities of the project will be of great benefit".

"We hope that through the activities of the Sector Champions, local businesses will start to use the simple tools developed for the project" says Mr John Kilgour, Chief Executive of the Committee for Ballarat.

Mr Kilgour added that "businesses must take responsibility for their workforce planning to ensure they have the skills they require. Because of the increased competition for skills businesses must prepare early. The tools offered through this initiative will make it easier for businesses to take control of their current and future workforce issues."

For further information on the Workforce Development Sector Champions project or to nominate your small business for the project please contact Ms Sofia Fiusco, Executive Officer Leadership Ballarat and Western Region on 53321247 or 0400059104 or by email eo@lbwr.com.au