

Member briefing

What we know so far about the Jobs and Skills Summit

10/8/22

Purpose

To inform members about the Jobs and Skills Summit and its likely policy content, pre-summit roundtables and other opportunities for engagement, and the Employment White Paper.

Jobs and Skills Summit

The Albanese government is holding a Jobs and Skills Summit on 1-2 September at Parliament House Canberra. Details, including a short Issues Paper, will be released soon on [this webpage](#).

As we understand it, its core purpose is to help develop policies to achieve **full employment**, deal with the consequences of a tight labour market (such as Jobs and skills shortages) and ensure the benefits are widely shared.

Full employment was the focus of past Economic Summits (Hawke Govt in 1983) and White papers (Curtin Govt in 1944 and Keating Govt in 1994). Our understanding of full employment today goes beyond keeping unemployment low. At its heart it means that people seeking employment or more paid hours can find them, and the pay and the quality of those jobs improves so that the fruits of economic growth are more fairly shared and no one is left behind.

Around 100 people from business, unions and civil society will be invited along with Commonwealth Ministers and State Premiers and Territory Chief Ministers.

We understand that the Summit will discuss five policy Streams (the titles may change):

1. Macroeconomic policy to grow jobs
2. Workforce participation
3. Skills and migration
4. Wages and job security
5. Industry development

Each of these Streams will be led by a Minister or Ministers, and the Treasurer has overall carriage of the policy development work, supported by a unit within Treasury.

Within the Streams there will also be a focus on employment opportunities for people who are disadvantaged, maximising jobs and opportunities from renewable energy, tackling climate change, the digital economy, the care economy and a Future Made in Australia; and ensuring women have equal opportunities and equal pay.

A Communique will be published at the end of the Summit, and there are likely to be statements (including joint statements) from peak bodies and others participating in the meeting.

Pre-Summit engagement opportunities

The Ministers responsible for the above policy streams are organising a series of roundtables in advance of the Summit, with the intention they will feed outcomes from these into the process. **Some Premiers and Chief Ministers are also holding roundtables to seek input into the positions they take to the Summit.**

The roundtables are being organised in a hurry, so we don't have full details, including dates and times. **The respective Ministers will issue invitations and organisations seeking more information (or an invite) should contact the relevant Minister's offices.** We expect they will be held throughout August.

Here is a list of the ones we expect to be held at this stage (4/8/22), **noting that this may not be accurate and may change:**

Roundtable date	Minister	Topic
	Minister Rishworth (Social Services):	Barriers to workforce participation
24-Aug		Employment for people with disability
22-Aug		
	Minister Burke (Employment and Workplace Relations):	
		Workplace relations
		Disadvantaged job-seekers
		Employment for older people
	Minister Gallagher (Finance and Women):	
		Gender equity in employment (tba)
	Ministers Bowen (Climate) & Husic (Industry):	
		Employment in clean energy industries
		Employment in manufacturing ('Made in Australia')
	Minister Butler (Health and Aged Care):	
15-Aug		Health and aged care workforce (tba, with input from Premiers)
	Minister Aly (child care):	
		Child care workforce
09-Aug		Youth employment
	Minister O'Neil (Home Affairs) & Minister Giles (Immigration):	
		Migration policy and labour and skills shortages
		Employment for refugees and other newly settled migrants

	Ministers O'Connor (Skills and Training), & Clair (Education):	
		Vocational education and training and skills (tba)
		Higher education and skills (tba)
	Minister Watt (Agriculture):	
		Workforce issues in agriculture (tba)
	Minister Wells	
15-Aug		Aged care
	Minister Shorten	
17-Aug		NDIS
	Minister Burnie	
		first nations
	Minister Husic	manufacturing
	Minister Giles	
		CALD
		Refugees

White Paper

The Terms of Reference for the Employment White Paper will be developed in response to ideas, issues and priorities raised at the Summit. Treasury has carriage of the White Paper, with input from other Departments.

The usual submissions process will follow.

There may be a Green Paper (discussion paper) to set the scene and provide background information for people making submissions.

We don't yet have a timeline for completion of the White Paper but expect it will be published during 2023. It is likely to include major policy announcements.

ACOSS role

In the very limited time available to us before the Summit, we aim to:

- Inform members and people with lived experience about the government's policy development process and opportunities for involvement;
- Assemble the key policy ideas and proposals relating to full employment in the draft Policy Framework document into a Position Paper for the Summit, and later on a submission to the White Paper process;
- Participate in relevant roundtables (where invited), advise members on opportunities to participate, and provide our draft policy framework as a background briefing;
- Seek the views of members on the draft policy framework before finalising the Summit Position Paper, and provide opportunities for members and people with lived experience to put their views directly to the public;
- Engage with peaks in our own and other sectors (unions and business) to identify areas of policy agreement where we may be able to work together;
- Lobby government to commit to full employment and develop policies consistent with our own, and to make the process as inclusive as possible.