

ANNUAL REPORT



Acknowledgement of Country

Business & Employment Southeast Tasmania acknowledges the Tasmanian Aboriginal peoples as the traditional owners and ongoing custodians of *lutruwita* (Tasmania).

We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and to all Tasmanian Aboriginal peoples who continue to strengthen Culture, and carry the stories, knowledge and spirit of Country through generations.

We acknowledge the difficult truths of our shared history. We honor the strength, resilience and survival of Tasmanian Aboriginal peoples through the impacts of dispossession, injustice and ongoing inequity.

We acknowledge that Aboriginal voices have not always been heard, and we commit to listen, carrying out our work with gentle steps. We acknowledge that Aboriginal Culture holds a unique and enduring connection to Country, and we commit to learning, understanding and walking alongside community with respect and humility.

Through listening, learning and connection, we strive to contribute to stronger, more inclusive communities across Southeast Tasmania.



BEST Governance Framework

Our approach to corporate governance sets the foundation for the way we conduct our business and deliver outcomes.



Message from the Board



2025/2026 highlighted what makes Business & Employment Southeast Tasmania (BEST) unique: our deep connection to the people, communities and employers of Southeast Tasmania. The Annual Report gives a brief insight into the vast impact BEST has within the region, demonstrating how our place-based model and the region's trusted connector continues to deliver meaningful, measurable outcomes for individuals seeking employment, businesses navigating workforce challenges, and community members pursuing education, training and connection.

The year has been one of consolidation, growth and increasing strategic importance for BEST. BEST has strengthened its position as a critical regional service delivering employment, training and community participation outcomes across Southeast Tasmania. BEST continues to demonstrate strong return on investment, with clear evidence of improved workforce participation, employer engagement and social inclusion.

Throughout the year, our team has delivered measurable social and economic outcomes for individuals, employers and communities across the region. We have supported thousands of people to access local jobs, navigate training pathways, build confidence, and participate more fully in their communities. As BEST approaches a period of significant funding transition, these outcomes reinforce the critical importance of sustained investment in locally embedded services that understand and respond to the needs of the region.

The Board is proud of the organisation's achievements, but we are equally mindful of the challenges ahead. With key funding streams nearing their end, we have focused strongly on securing BEST's future. This has included refining our strategic direction, strengthening governance, refined our value proposition, and invested in the systems and partnerships required to demonstrate impact at a regional scale.

I extend my sincere thanks to the Board, our leadership team and staff, whose commitment, professionalism and deep local knowledge underpin every success outlined in this report and beyond. I also acknowledge our partners across government, industry, education and community services. Their collaboration ensures that Southeast Tasmania continues to benefit from coordinated, place-based support. As we look to the year ahead, BEST remains steadfast in its mission. We will continue to champion local people, local businesses and local opportunity, because when our community thrives, our region thrives and Tasmania thrives.

Regards

Annette Barwick
BEST Chair





Our Purpose

A connector for workforce, education and training participation, business growth, and regional collaboration for long-term social and economic impact across the southeast region.

‘Opening doors for community to thrive’

Our Vision

A thriving Southeast Tasmania where communities are connected, skilled, and empowered.

Values

Empower

Supporting individuals to build confidence, skills, and pathways to meaningful employment and lifelong learning, enabling them to take control of their future.

Inclusivity

Creating equitable access to opportunities for all individuals by removing barriers and fostering diversity. It ensures that youth, jobseekers and underrepresented groups are actively included in employment, education, and training pathways.

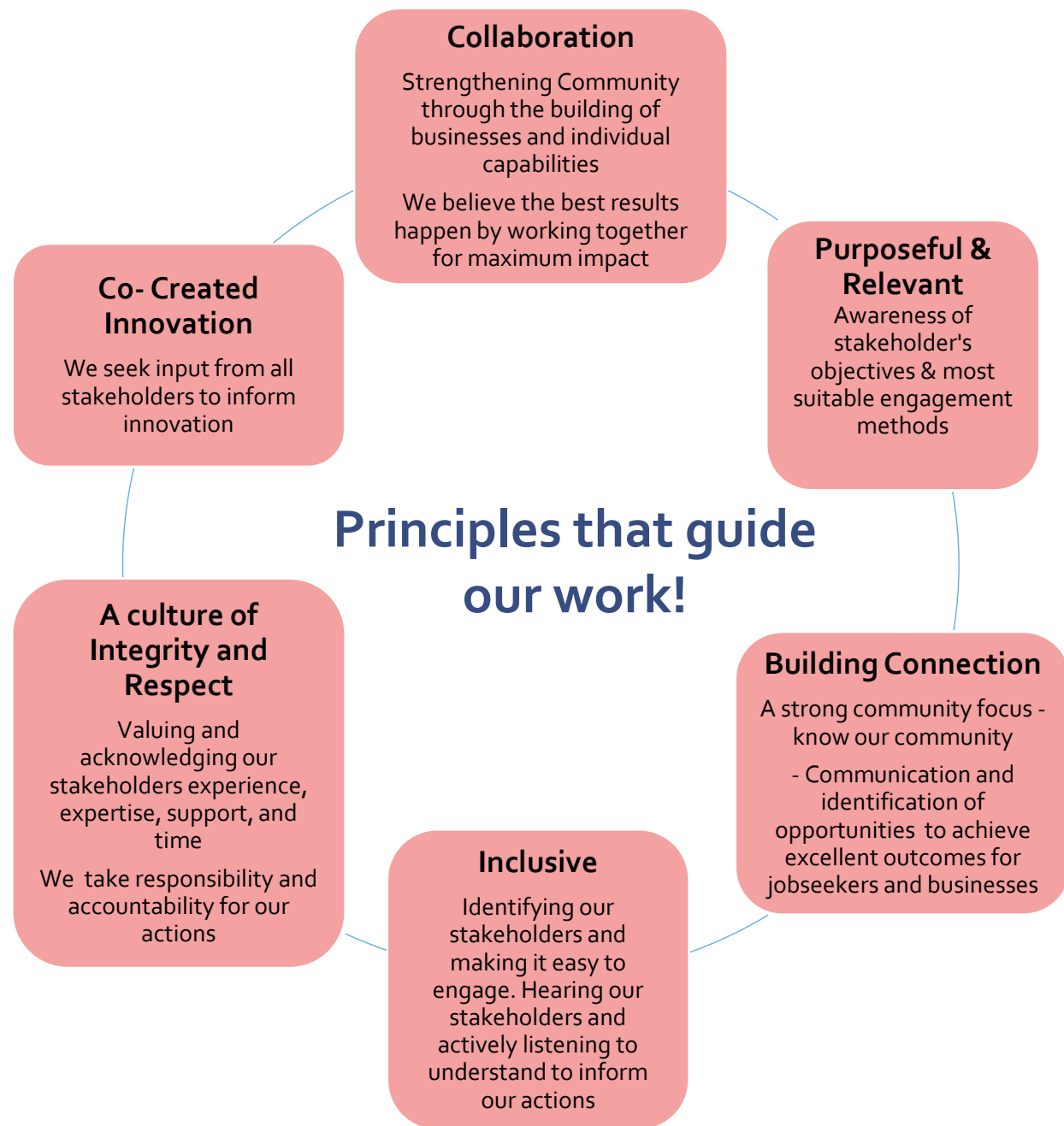
Integrity

Acting with transparency, accountability, and respect in all interactions and decisions.

Sustainability

Focusing on long-term outcomes that strengthen the region’s economic resilience, social wellbeing, and environmental responsibility.





Message from SERDA Representative – Janet Gatehouse

It is wonderful to see the continued growth and impact of Business and Employment Southeast Tasmania (BEST) across our region.

As the SERDA representative on the BEST Board, I continue to see firsthand the difference that locally focused employment, training and business support can make to individuals, families and businesses across Southeast Tasmania. Our region is growing, and with that identified growth comes both exciting opportunities and challenges. Making sure our local people have the skills and opportunities to participate in that growth is more important than ever.

BEST has an important role to play in this work. Through the Southeast Training and Jobs Hub, employment and career support, locally delivered training, youth programs, the Southeast Tasmania Study Hub, employer engagement and regional outreach, BEST is connecting people with opportunities and businesses with the people and skills they need.

The results speak for themselves. During the year, BEST continued to support local people into employment and training, while strengthening its relationships with employers, training providers and the broader community. The opening of the Southeast Training and Jobs Hub has provided an important new base for this work and is already demonstrating the value of bringing employment, training and education together in one regional location. More than 2712 job seeker support sessions were achieved during the year, with 403 new community members registering with BEST and 38 local training courses delivered. There were 404 training commencements and 377 completions, representing a 93.3 per cent completion rate.

BEST's contribution also extends beyond the delivery of individual programs. In 2025, BEST was invited as a key regional stakeholder to participate in the facilitated South East Regional Development Authority Strategic Workshop. This provided an opportunity for BEST to contribute directly to the discussion about the future direction of our region and to help inform the development of the SERDA 2030 Strategic Plan, released in July 2025. The involvement of BEST in this process reflects the important role that employment, skills and workforce development play in the broader economic development of Southeast Tasmania.

For the four SERDA councils, this connection is important. Local government has a strong interest in creating communities where people can live, work, learn and build businesses locally. BEST brings practical experience and strong connections with local people, employers and training providers, complementing the work of councils and other regional partners.

There is still much more that can be done. Continued investment would allow BEST to expand youth transition programs, strengthen the Study Hub, support young people to obtain industry licences and qualifications, work more closely with local employers, extend outreach into communities where services are less accessible, and provide ongoing support to people as they move into employment or training. BEST has already identified opportunities to strengthen employer partnerships, provide tailored business support, extend regional outreach and enhance post-placement support.

I believe we should build on what has already been achieved rather than lose the capability and connections that have been developed. The success of BEST demonstrates the value of having a strong regional organisation that understands our communities and can respond to local needs.

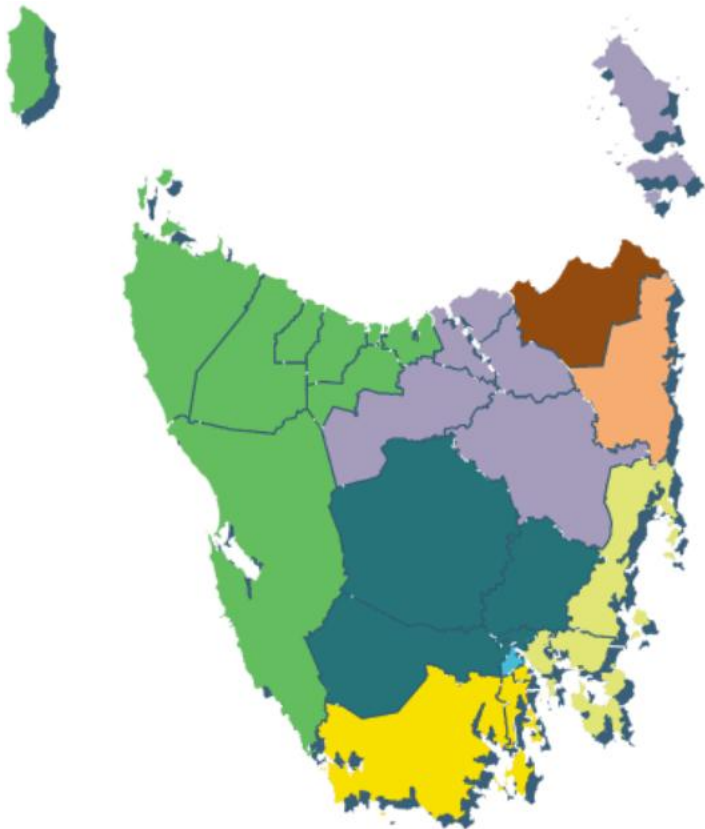
SERDA will continue to advocate for the ongoing funding and support needed to maintain and grow BEST's programs. Stable, longer-term funding is particularly important if BEST is to retain its experienced team, build on its partnerships and plan effectively for the needs of a growing region.

By working together Councils, Governments, Businesses, Education and Training providers and our community, we can ensure that the opportunities created by the growth of Southeast Tasmania are available to everyone.

BEST has already opened many doors for our community and created an aspirational environment. With continued support, there is an opportunity to open many more.

Janet Gatehouse
SERDA Representative (BEST Board)





Jobs Tasmania – Regional Jobs Hub

Your Region



SOUTH EAST

Business and Employment
Southeast Tasmania



EAST

Break O'Day Employment
Connect



NORTH EAST

Dorset Employment Connect



NORTH

Northern Employment and
Business Hub



SOUTH

Southern Employment and
Training Network



GLENORCHY

Glenorchy Jobs Hub



CENTRAL

Southcentral Workforce
Network



WEST & NORTH WEST

West North West Working

BEST Impact: July 2025 – June 2026.

207

*Total - Jobseekers
gained employment*

79

*Were aged 15 years to
25 years*

404

*Jobseekers
commenced training*

38

*Local training
courses facilitated*

723

*Stakeholder
engagements*

604

*Business
engagements*



Jobs, Skills and Training Impact

Since July 2019 | Local Jobs for Local People



2,407
Local Job
Vacancies
Received

2,840
New Community
Member
Registrations

2,186
Total Local People
Gained
Employment

1,599
Referrals to Other
Services

2,186
Local People into
Employment
=
\$109M+
into the Local Economy

Supporting a Regional
Community of 90,000+
People and 6,000+ Local
Businesses

(Across Clarence, Sorell,
Tasman & Glamorgan Spring
Bay LGAs)

163
Local Training
Courses Delivered

1,412
Local People
Supported into
Local Training

6,813
Engagements with
Local Businesses

556
Outreach Sessions
and Events in the
four LGAs.



Local Government Area - Data

Clarence City

July 2025 – June 2026.



Total Jobseekers gained employment	49
Employer engagements	179
New Jobseekers engaged with	120
Existing Jobseekers engaged with	627
Post Placement Support	5
Events / Workshops / Forums /Outreach Visits	51

Clarence Region (July 2025 – June 2026)

Connecting Local Talent with Local Opportunity – Building Surveyors Tasmania.

BEST recently supported community member Kim to secure a rewarding position with **Building Surveyors Tasmania** in Bellerive.

Working with Career Coach Tara, Kim received personalised assistance to update her resume, prepare a professional cover letter, and explore suitable employment opportunities. At the same time, BEST worked closely with Building Surveyors Tasmania to understand their needs, workplace culture, and the qualities they were seeking in a new team member.

The result was a successful match that exceeded expectations.

Kim described the process as "amazing, swift and easy," while Building Surveyors Tasmania Director Shane praised BEST for understanding what would make the right fit for their team.

This outcome demonstrates BEST's commitment to creating meaningful employment connections by matching the right people with the right local businesses, helping individuals, employers and our community thrive.

Outcome: 1 local job seeker successfully placed into ongoing employment with a local business.



Local Government Area - Data

Glamorgan Spring Bay

July 2025 – June 2026.



Total Jobseekers gained employment	9
Employer engagements	65
New Jobseekers engaged with	17
Existing Jobseekers engaged with	85
Post Placement Support	0
Events / Workshops / Forums /Outreach Visits	9

Glamorgan Spring Bay Region (July 2025 – June 2026)

Creating Pathways into Hospitality and Tourism Employment in Glamorgan Spring Bay

BEST continued to support workforce development across the Glamorgan Spring Bay municipality through the delivery of the Regional Hospitality Futures Program in Triabunna.

Delivered in partnership with **TasTAFE** at the **Triabunna Trade Training Centre**, the two-day program provided participants with nationally recognised training in **Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA)** and **Food Handling Hygiene**. These industry-recognised qualifications are essential for many roles within the hospitality and tourism sectors and help participants build the practical skills and confidence needed to pursue local employment opportunities.

The program was designed to strengthen job readiness while supporting the workforce needs of local businesses. By providing training within the community, participants were able to access valuable qualifications close to home, reducing barriers to participation and creating accessible pathways into employment.

Hospitality and tourism continue to play an important role in the regional economy, and initiatives such as the Regional Hospitality Futures Program help ensure local residents can develop the skills required to take advantage of emerging opportunities within these industries.

The successful collaboration between **BEST** and **TasTAFE** highlights the value of regional partnerships in delivering training that responds to local workforce needs. Through programs such as this, BEST continues to support individuals to learn new skills, build professional confidence and take meaningful steps towards rewarding careers.



Local Government Area - Data

Sorell

July 2025 – June 2026.



Total Jobseekers gained employment	116
Employer engagements	307
New Jobseekers engaged with	241
Existing Jobseekers engaged with	1401
Post Placement Support	25
Events / Workshops / Forums /Outreach Visits	49

Sorell Region (July 2025 – June 2026)

Growing Together: Lily's Story with Orenda Circle

For the past two years, BEST has been proud to partner with Orenda Circle, supporting their workforce needs and helping connect passionate people with meaningful careers in early childhood education.

When Orenda Circle was looking to recruit a trainee educator, BEST worked alongside owner Hannah and her team to promote the opportunity and identify suitable candidates. Through this process, Lily was successfully matched with the role and joined the Orenda Circle team as a trainee.

Since starting her traineeship, Lily has grown both personally and professionally. With the support of her employer and colleagues, she is now continuing her studies towards a **Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care**, building the skills and knowledge needed for a long-term career in the sector.

The ongoing partnership between BEST, Orenda Circle and Lily demonstrates how the right support, the right opportunity, and a commitment to growth can create lasting benefits for individuals, businesses, and the broader community.

This success story is a reminder that investing in people creates opportunities that extend well beyond the workplace, helping individuals build rewarding careers while supporting local businesses to thrive. Watch the video to hear Hannah speak about the success of the partnership between Orenda Circle & BEST and share in Lily's experience.



Local Government Area - Data

Tasman

July 2025 – June 2026.



Total Jobseekers gained employment	13
Employer engagements	42
New Jobseekers engaged with	17
Existing Jobseekers engaged with	119
Post Placement Support	2
Events / Workshops / Forums /Outreach Visits	9

Tasman Region (July 2025 – June 2026)

Building Skills and Opportunities on the Tasman Peninsula

15 Tasman Peninsula residents have strengthened their skills and industry credentials through the successful completion of a Chemical Accreditation Course delivered locally during the year.

The training was made possible through a collaborative partnership between **TasTAFE, Tasman Council** and **Business & Employment Southeast Tasmania (BEST)**, with funding support provided through the **TasTAFE Regional Access Fund**. By bringing accredited training directly to the community, the initiative removed barriers to participation and enabled local people to access professional development opportunities close to home.

Chemical accreditation is an important qualification across a range of industries, supporting safe work practices and helping participants build the knowledge and confidence required to meet industry standards. For many participants, the course provided an opportunity to enhance their existing skills, improve workplace safety practices, and strengthen future employment opportunities.

The success of the program highlights the value of strong local partnerships in responding to workforce development needs and ensuring regional communities have access to quality training pathways. By investing in local skills development, BEST and its partners are helping to build a more capable, confident and job-ready workforce across the Tasman municipality. Congratulations to all 15 participants on their achievement and acknowledges the collective efforts of TasTAFE, Tasman Council and the TasTAFE Regional Access Fund in making this opportunity possible.



Out Of Area

July 2025 – June 2026.

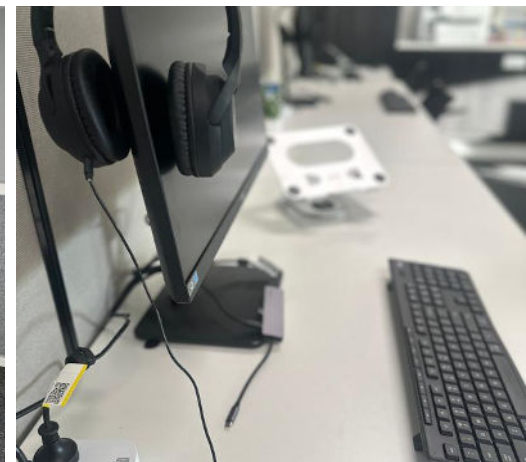
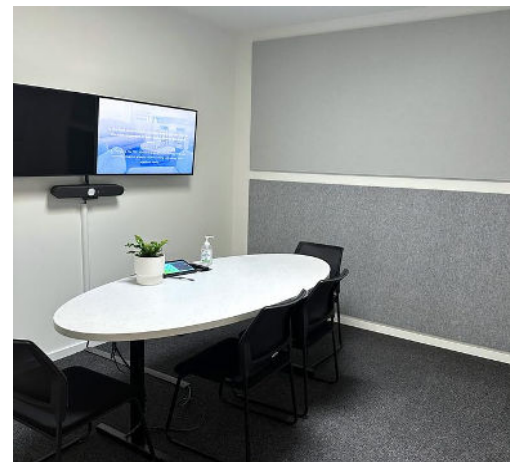
Total Jobseekers gained employment	20
Employer engagements	11
New JSs engaged with	8
Existing JSs engaged with	77
<u>Post Placement Support</u>	<u>2</u>





Australian Government

**Supported by the Australian
Government through the Suburban
University Study Hubs Program.**

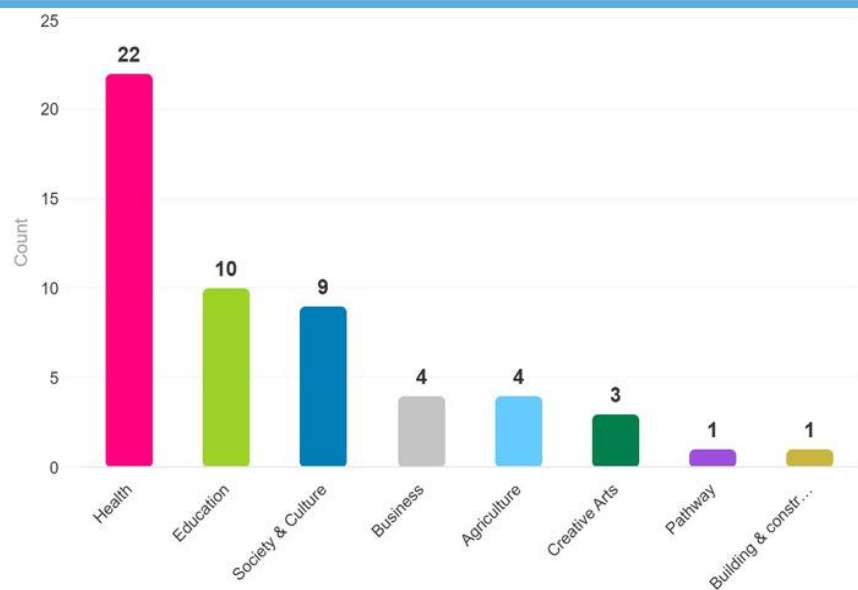


69 Registered Students



University of Tasmania: 27	Private RTO: 11
TasTAFE: 8	Swinburne University: 2
Charles Darwin: 2	Charles Sturt: 1
James Cook: 1	Griffith University: 1
Torrens University: 1	

48.5% First in their family to go to university

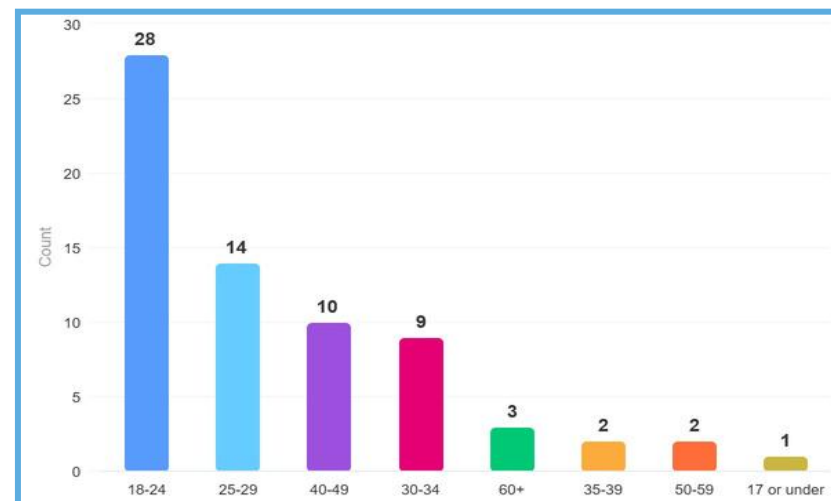
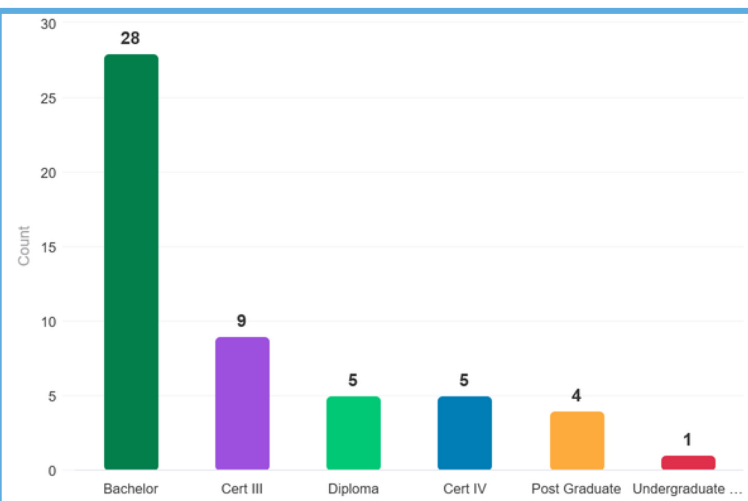


85.5% ♀

14.5% ♂

106
Hours of support
provided

963
Student visits
since opening





BEST

Regional Engagement & Experience Program

Proudly supported by:



TASMAN COUNCIL



REEP Local Government Area - Impact

SORELL AREA

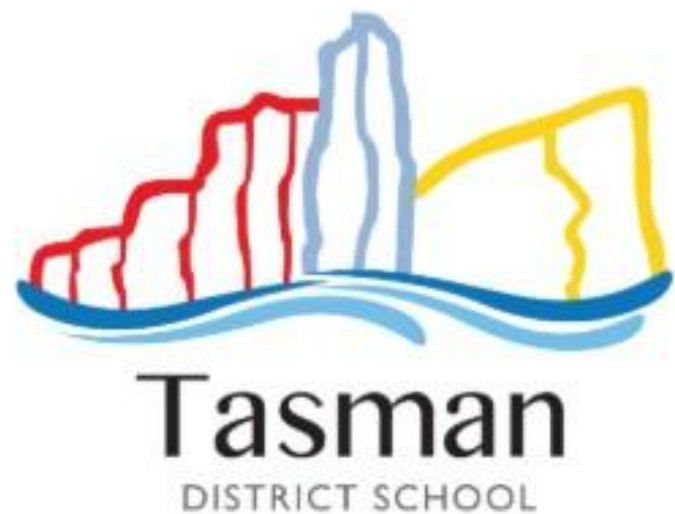


Feb 2026 – June 2026.

Total students actively engaged	36
White card credentials achieved	16
First Aid qualifications achieved	14
RSA certifications obtained	34
Learner Drivers Licences gained	11
Work Experience Placements completed	24

REEP Local Government Area - Impact

TASMAN AREA



Feb 2026 – June 2026.

Total students actively engaged	19
White card credentials achieved	14
First Aid qualifications achieved	11
RSA certifications obtained	10
Learner Drivers Licences gained	6
Work Experience Placements completed	3

REEP Local Government Area - Impact

Feb 2026 – June 2026

TRIABUNNA AREA



TRIABUNNA
DISTRICT SCHOOL

Total students actively engaged	19
White card credentials achieved	18
RSA certifications obtained	15
Learner Drivers Licences gained	10
Work Experience Placements completed	16



Business & Employment
Southeast Tasmania

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