Young Futures Project Phase 1 research description – Interviews with community stakeholders

The research was carried out in six rural, regional and peri-urban communities in the State of Victoria. The locations were determined in conjunction with the funding body. Table 1 describes the locations, using pseudonyms.

Table 1: Communities involved in the research

No	Town (pseudonym)	Type	Approx. population
1	East-town	Peri-urban	48,000
2	Sea-shore	Post-industrial rural	10,000
3	Wheat-town	Regional	15,000
4	Market-town	Regional	14,000
5	Fruit-town	Regional	64,000
6	West-town	Peri-urban	41,000

Three were regional towns, each being two to three hours' drive from Melbourne, two were peri-urban areas on the outskirts of Melbourne with rapidly growing populations with high migrant diversity; and one was a post-industrial rural town, isolated yet just beyond the city limits of outer Melbourne. Only one location (no. 6) had higher than the Victorian average household income; and only two (nos. 1 and 6) were at or near the State average for progression of school-leavers to further or higher education.

Ethics approval was obtained from Federation University's Human Research Ethics Committee before commencement, and all interviews were recorded and transcribed. A total of 57 interviews were completed in late 2018 and early 2019, an average of 9.5 per site. Significant stakeholders were selected according to a defined protocol. These included organisations specifically focused on working with young people such as Local Learning and Employment Network providers(LLENs), local and nearby higher and further education providers, employers of young people, some intermediary apprenticeship providers, and indigenous and/or migrant organisations where appropriate. Table 2 shows the interviewees by category and site. Almost all interviews were carried out face to face, with a few undertaken by telephone when the personnel were not available on the days of visits. All sites involved two or three visits to undertake the interviews. Some types of respondent were particularly difficult to access, the most difficult being the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network providers.

Table 2: Interviewees at each site

Job Role	East-town	Sea-shore	Wheat-town	Market-town	Fruit-town	West-town
TAFE CEO or delegate	X	X	X	X	X	X
TAFE Teacher working primarily with young people	X	X	X	X	X (2)	X
LLEN	X	X	X	X	X	X
Private Registered Training Organisation (RTO)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Group Training Organisation (GTO)	X	X	X	X	X	
Apprenticeship Support Network Provider (AASN)			X	X	X	X

Indigenous/Multicultural organisation			X	X (2)	X	
Employer # 1	X	X	X	X	X	X
Employer # 2		X	X (2)	X		
University	X	X (2)	X	X	X	X
Other		X			X	

Notes: TAFE (Technical and Further Education) is the public VET provider; LLENs are regional organisations servicing young people, with a particular remit for disadvantaged young people; GTOs employ young people as apprentices and trainees, 'leasing' them to host employers, and providing support. AASNs are funded organisations which 'sign up' young people to apprenticeships and traineeships and provide a certain, amount of support to apprentices/trainees and to employers.

Case studies for each site, of around 8-10 pages, were written up under a number of headings which were based around the project research questions, the interview questions (listed below) and additional issues which had arisen during the interviews. A cross-case analysis was then undertaken.

Interview Questions for Community Stakeholders:

- Please say what your role is in relation to young people in your local area, and how long you yourself have lived here.

- How do young people go about the process of imagining their futures in rural and regional /peri-urban *(as appropriate)* communities like yours? Do they see a future here?

- How do you think that young people navigate or weigh up decisions related to education, training and work?

- To what extent do they seek local solutions to issues to education, training and work?

- What sorts of things trigger the decision to stay or leave a young person's home community? What are young people seeking?

- How do communities, schools, business, training organisations help young people navigate this future? Is there more that can be done?

- Do young people in your local area have enough support around understanding work, training and educational options?

- Are there identified skills gaps in your local area? Are young people guided towards work, training or education in these areas? How is it done?