

## TTW Tender

The Federal Government has once again showed its confidence in National Joblink by awarding it the Transition to Work (TTW) contracts in both the North and Northwest Tasmania as well as in the Fitzroy Region in QLD for the next 5 years.

This was an extremely competitive tender round with quite a few changes across the country. NJL can be extremely proud in maintaining these contracts through to 2027. Whilst there are some changes as to how the contract is conducted, in essence, it will be continuing to do what we do best which is engaging, encouraging, and motivating participants into work. Congratulations to everybody involved at NJL in the Tender process.

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## Culture Connect Recipe Book



In February, the Culture Connect crew hosted their final Food with Friends evening and launched the Culture Connect Recipe Book; a collection of stories and recipes from their home counties. The teams theme for the evening was home-cooked Indian and Australian Fusions. The 35 guests were served food prepared by the Culture Connect Crew and enjoyed an evening of stories and reflections at NJL's Wild Thyme Restaurant. Their Culture Connect Recipe Book gained amazing community support with one local printer offering to print the professional bound book and support the cause. The book is their legacy that will give back to the community and remind the crew of their journey and ability to be part of something bigger. At \$12 each, 100% of the profit from purchasing the recipe book went towards preparing and providing meals to the community and feeding those in need.

## CTA Industry Visits - Hobart

As part of the Career Transition Assistance (CTA) program, NJL arranged for participants to have a guided tour of Bunnings Warehouse in Hobart, which included a chat with the Operations Manager about the application process and talks with Team Members about their experiences of working at Bunnings. As a result of their positive interaction with the staff at Bunnings the CTA participants looked at available positions within Bunnings when they returned to the NJL office. We found some Team Member roles for the Kingston stores and two ladies applied. The fantastic news is both were recently called in to attend an interview. One of the participants said, she was amazed that Bunnings would want someone of her age. In the CTA program we reiterate that "Age just means that you have more knowledge and experience to share with your new employer". One of the participants was successful at her interview and is now a Bunnings Team Member. She believes her time in the CTA program helped with the process and boosted her confidence to sell her life skills and personality.

## Games Fest - Launceston

Our long-awaited **Games Fest – Digital Work is Real** activity (Local Jobs Program) commenced in February 2022 and we have 20 participants actively and enthusiastically engaged. Young people with an interest in online games are often marginalised due to the assumption that being a 'gamer' is not helpful to finding a job. Games Fest challenges this view by providing an opportunity for participants to use their 'gamer' experience and skills as a potential pathway to employment. They will be encouraged to improve their job-readiness by identifying, developing, and marketing their transferable skills across a range of industries and roles. Games Fest runs for 13 weeks and includes both job search skills training and practical activities relevant to the on-line games industry. NJL will be co-facilitating alongside representatives of Bitlink, a Launceston-based technology education company.



## GOOD NEWS STORIES

### Tameka – Cairns, QLD

Tameka joined the NJL Cairns Industry Specific Employability Skills Training (EST) 'Making Waves' Program in October 2021 with some big dreams. These included gaining permanent employment in the hospitality industry, getting her driver's licence and finding a rental property. During the Program, Tameka took advantage of every opportunity to learn more about the industry and gain experience in different departments. On completion of the Program Tameka was offered employment at the Shangri-La Resort in Cairns in their exclusive Club Lounge, "The Horizon Club". She has also obtained her driver's licence and signed a lease on her very own home. These have been huge achievements in two short months for this motivated young lady.



### Akeem – Gladstone, QLD

Akeem joined the TTW (Transition to Work) Program at NJL in Gladstone, last year, as a very shy and timid fellow. After a few missed appointments and engagement attempts from NJL's TTW mentor's, Akeem started to come to life when he visited the NJL office. Akeem completed the Work Skills Training— which saw Akeem flourish as an amazing public speaker and group leader. Akeem is on his way to completing his 100 hours driving experience with the NJL Driving School. After doing some work for a family business – wearing his brand-new work uniform, Akeem arrived at the NJL Gladstone office with his first payslip. He is on the books at Marion's Cleaning Services, and has been inducted onto work sites such as Rosella Park School and Queensland Alumina Ltd. His work boots were very tight, so NJL purchased Akeem some suitable Steel Cap Boots and he is now on a new journey.



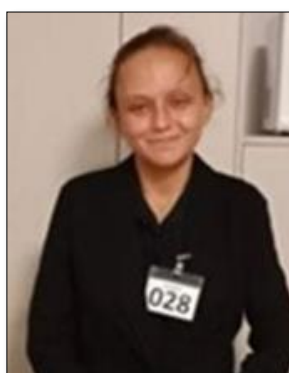
### Yim – Darwin, NT

Initially, Yim did not want to attend the Career Training Assistance (CTA) course as she thought it was going to be boring computer work. However, Yim attended every training session and became very engaged in the program, so much so she took on a leadership role in the group environment and has found purpose every Monday and Tuesday in the CTA training. Yim also known as "Sandi" has a small business at the local markets doing clothing alterations and hemming for customers as well as selling handmade bags which she makes out of recycled jeans. NJL worked with Yim supporting her to create a price list and business cards that she can have on display every Sunday at her stall. NJL bulk printed her business cards for her to hand to customers. Yim is grateful to NJL for supporting her journey through navigating the current job market and improving the running of her own business.



### Dee – Gladstone, QLD

Dee a young indigenous woman, early school leaver and mum wanted to achieve her dream of working in Security Our NJL Gladstone Mentor worked with Dee providing guidance and support referring her to the Cert III in Security through the Job Trainer Fund. Dee gained her Cert III with NJL assisting her to obtain her Security licence and providing support and encouragement along the way to overcome some personal barriers We are so happy to hear Dee has been hand-picked to travel to Brisbane to work security at the upcoming NRL football game this month, which she is super excited about.



## MEET THE TEAM

### Mi Suk Lee – *Compliance and Claims Admin – Launceston, TAS*

Hi, my name is Mi Suk, I was born in Korea in a small country area called Soyang. After graduating with a Bachelor of Computer Science in Korea, I was employed at the Korean Welfare Foundation (providing financial, physical, and emotional service for orphans and people with disabilities) as a Team Leader. I was also trained as a social worker within the same company a year later. I worked for the for the Korean Welfare Foundation for 10 years until I moved to Brisbane, Australia in 2004 with my family. In 2006 we moved to Launceston for my husband's work. While I wasn't working, I kept busy by completing Cert III in Business Admin at Tas TAFE. With over 20 years of office work experience I hoped to find a job within this kind of environment but preferred to be working behind the scenes as I still get nervous with speaking English. I started working at NJL in February 2021 as a Compliance & Claims Administrator. I'm really love to retire here if I could. I have a daughter who is living and studying in Melbourne and when we can my husband and I love to travel anywhere as well as visit our daughter in Melbourne.



### Louise Laing – *TTW/PN Mentor, Gladstone, QLD*

Hi, I'm Louise and I started with NJL in January 2021 as an EST Mentor. I have absolutely loved my role as a trainer and have felt that I have really made a difference in young people's lives as a positive role model. With the changes to NJL I am moving into the role of Mentor for ParentsNext and TTW. Prior to NJL, I have worked in the Community Services Sector for about 20 years, particularly in Disability Services, Child Safety and Education. When I'm not at work, I'm busy being a mum to 5 children between the ages of 15 & 28, grandmother to 5 beautiful grannies and 2 puppy dogs who are 2 and 11. Any other spare time I have is spent completing a Bachelor of Criminology and Criminal Justice which will see me graduate in September this year. I also one day would like to travel around Australia in my campervan with my husband of 20 years.



### Bronwen Gratton – *Training & Development Facilitator, Cairns, QLD*

Hi, I'm Bronwen and I've been working with NJL for just over a year now. Prior to joining NJL, I was employed as Site Administrator for a national electrical and communications company contracted for the expansion and refurbishment of the Cairns Convention Centre. I've had quite a varied career having spent time working in the Hospitality & Tourism industry and/or Education, Training & Development across QLD, SA and NT plus a short stint in WA. I soon realised, working in the construction industry is not my thing, so I was keen to return to my first passion – facilitating opportunities for people to improve their lives through training and development programs. Since joining NJL, I've worked on a few different projects including one I am particularly proud of, that is the Making Waves Programs – an industry specific EST activity that has been hugely successful and well received by the Tourism, Hospitality and Marine Industry. When not at work, I love to travel, eat out and spend time with family and friends. I have two adult sons who live in Adelaide who I miss and adore as well as a 12-month-old rescue dog and a new husband married last year here at the beautiful Palm Cove.

