

### APPENDIX 3 COMMONWEALTH AND VICTORIAN RURAL INITIATIVE PROGRAMS

During the RFA consultations, community members raised many issues outside the immediate scope of the RFA, particularly with regard to the provision of government services. These are detailed in the Social Assessment Report (VicRFASC 1998c) for the North East region and in [Appendix 2](#). In response to these issues, the following range of Commonwealth and State programs have been identified which could be accessed to specifically address some of these issues. Local government could also be contacted for information regarding their various programs and organisations.

PROGRAM	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
<p>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ASSISTANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnerships for Growth</li> <li>• Rural Communities Program</li> <li>• Aboriginal &amp; Torres Strait Islander Community Development Employment Projects</li> </ul>	<p>The Victorian government has committed \$50 million to an economic development program for the strengthening of rural communities in Victoria, specifically to attract new industry and investment, strengthen local businesses and fund development projects and infrastructure, and enhance community assets. Under this program, grants and assistance are available to business and communities.</p> <p>This Program aims to assist rural and remote communities to develop the social infrastructure in their community by funding projects to increase community resources available to meet their needs. Communities are encouraged to plan, organise and deliver their own projects. Key elements include: grants towards the employment of rural financial counselors; information delivery, for example telecentres and small grants for community activities; CreditCare, a program providing financial services to communities where banks have closed; and professional assistance to develop community-driven regional strategic plans.</p> <p>The Projects enable members of ATSI communities to exchange unemployment benefits for opportunities to undertake work and training in activities managed by local indigenous community organisations. There are projects in the rural sector, including agricultural and land based activities.</p>	<p>Victorian Department of State Development (Business Victoria)</p> <p>Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry</p> <p>Commonwealth Department of transport and Regional Services</p> <p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission</p>
<p>HEALTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel Assistance</li> <li>• Multi-purpose (Health &amp; Welfare) Centres Initiative</li> <li>• Mental Health</li> </ul>	<p>Commonwealth funding provide for allocation by the State Government to assist country patients who must travel to receive medical treatment.</p> <p>Financial assistance provided by Commonwealth Government funding for community based organisations and local government to provide rural and remote areas with access to health and welfare services.</p>	<p>Commonwealth Department of Health &amp; Family Services</p> <p>or</p> <p>Victorian Department of</p>

Information for Rural and Remote Australia		Human Services
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PROGRAM	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
<p>EDUCATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme</li> <li>• Distance Education</li> <li>• Austudy/Abstudy</li> </ul>	<p>Assistance for families whose children do not have reasonable daily access to an appropriate government school in the year they are qualified to enrol in due to geographic isolation, a medical condition, a disability, or special education requirements.</p> <p>Distance Education enables people living in rural and remote areas to participate in higher education.</p>	<p>Centrelink</p> <p>Centrelink</p> <p>Centrelink</p>
<p>NEW APPRENTICESHIPS (Apprenticeships and traineeships)</p> <p>Training for Employment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training for Employment Program</li> <li>• Advanced English for Migrants Program</li> <li>• bridging courses for the overseas trained</li> </ul> <p>VIC TRAINEESHIPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Rural Skills Traineeship</li> <li>• National Amenity Horticultural Traineeship</li> <li>• National Pig Industry Traineeship</li> <li>• Dairy AVTS - Pilot</li> <li>• Production Horticulture Vegetable Growers AVTS - Pilot</li> </ul>	<p>Training for Employment helps job seekers to gain employment through the provision or enhancement of vocational skills linked to specific employment opportunities in the labour market.</p> <p>Commonwealth government incentives are offered to encourage employers to engage new apprentices and trainees and maintain them in employment and training until formal qualifications are obtained. Wage subsidies are also available.</p> <p>Traineeships are available as incentives to employers to take on trainees. Those specific to rural Victoria are listed here. Wage subsidies are also available where applicable, and also access to a training wage. Additional fares assistance, a living away from home allowance are available to eligible persons. Additional wage assistance is also available to employers to employ women in non-traditional traineeships.</p> <p>Assistance is provided in the form of skills development, formal training and employment strategies, and transition assistance. Skills development provides employment based training. Formal training enables clients with the skills needed for ongoing employment or participation in further training. Employment strategies provides funding to develop recruitment and career development strategies within Commonwealth, State and local government agencies, government enterprises, employers of regional significance and employer representative bodies. Transition assistance is provided to overcome obstacles to participation and employment clients face.</p>	<p>Centrelink</p> <p>Centrelink</p> <p>Rural Training Council of Australia</p> <p>Department of Education, Training, and Youth Affairs</p>

PROGRAM	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nursery AVTS - Pilot</li> <li>• Training for Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders (TAP)</li> <li>• Youth Employment Initiative</li> </ul>	<p>The State Government encourages Traineeship opportunities by providing 16 to 20 year old young people with broad based training in preparation for Traineeship.</p>	<p><b>Employment Victoria,</b> Department of State Development</p>
<p>LABOUR MARKET ASSISTANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest Industry Labour Adjustment Package</li> </ul>	<p>This Package provides labour market assistance for workers, including the self-employed, who are involved in the native forest industry, and are directly affected by the Deferred Forest Areas or the Regional Forest Agreement Process. For those eligible, assistance includes training, wage subsidies for new employers, and relocation costs to take up new employment or training.</p>	<p>Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education and Youth Affairs</p>
<p>BUSINESS ASSISTANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Growth Initiative</li> <li>• National Skills Shortage Program</li> <li>• Business Initiatives Scheme</li> <li>• Business Funding Scheme</li> <li>• Forest Industry Restructuring Assistance</li> </ul>	<p>In these programs assistance is provided to firms to improve their international competitiveness in the form of information, advice, and referral.</p> <p>This program provides short-term skills training to employed and unemployed persons with the necessary qualifications in areas where there are identified shortages. Specific to rural industry, a national and state Rural Industry Training Committee is involved in the training issues relevant to primary production.</p> <p>This is an ATSI Business Development Program for the promotion of community-based enterprise development. Grants are available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations for the establishment or expansion of income-generating ventures.</p> <p>This scheme provides concessional finance in the form of loans, loan guarantees and grants (corporations only) to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and corporations to acquire and/or develop commercially successful business enterprises.</p> <p>Restructuring Assistance aims to provide assistance for eligible forest industry businesses in the native forest based industry sector (and their employees) which have good long term viability and which either need to restructure in order to utilise a different forest resource base or are willing and able to move to new value adding opportunities within the same sector of elsewhere</p>	<p>Victorian Department of State Development</p> <p>Rural Training Council of Australia, for information on rural industry training committees</p> <p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Commission</p> <p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Commission</p> <p>Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry</p> <p>Commonwealth Department</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Forest Industry Business Exit Assistance</li></ul>	<p>in the forest industries.</p> <p>Business Exit Assistance will be available to those businesses whose departure from the industry would enable other businesses with good long term prospects to remain and invest in value adding opportunities.</p>	<p>of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry</p>
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PROGRAM	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
<p>ASSISTANCE FOR PRIMARY PRODUCERS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farm\$mart</li> <li>• FarmBis</li> <li>• Exceptional Circumstances Relief Payment</li> <li>• Farm Family Restart Scheme</li> <li>• Retirement Assistance for Farmers Scheme</li> <li>• Rural Research &amp; Development</li> </ul>	<p>Farm\$mart is a Victorian program which aims to develop industry skills and to integrate all aspect of farm management. It is delivered through a series of interactive workshops.</p> <p>FarmBis is a Commonwealth program to provide funding for those involved in agriculture and farm businesses to build on their existing management skill.</p> <p>The ECRP has superseded the Drought Relief Payment and is available to eligible farmers in declared exceptional circumstances. These payments provide income support equivalent to the Newstart Allowance (including partner allowance where applicable).</p> <p>FFRS operates as a decision support system for those farmers considering exiting the industry by giving them access to professional advice on the future viability of their business and on other employment opportunities. Income support is paid at the Newstart Allowance rate for those farmer's eligible to enter the scheme. It will also offer them incentives such as a re-establishment grant of up to \$45,000 on the sale of the farm, enabling them to leave farming before their assets are severely depleted.</p> <p>The Retirement Assistance for Farmers Scheme is a special arrangement which allows a pension aged farmer to gift up to \$500,000 of farm assets to a younger generation without this affecting the farmer's eligibility for the Age Pension. There are a number of conditions regarding eligibility which Centrelink can advise on.</p> <p>Commonwealth government and rural industries fund a number of research and development corporations and councils in a range of primary industry production areas.</p> <p>In addition, the following organisations participate in rural research and development in various capacities: State Departments of Agriculture, CSIRO, ABARE, Bureau of Rural Sciences, Australian Geological Survey Organisation, Australian Plague Locust Commission, National Registration Authority, Rural Research Database.</p>	<p>Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment</p> <p>Countrylink</p> <p>Centrelink</p> <p>Centrelink</p> <p>Centrelink</p> <p>Relevant Research &amp; Development Corporation or Council</p> <p>Respective authority</p>
<p>NATURAL RESOURCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landcare</li> </ul>	<p>This is a Commonwealth Government Program which supports community initiatives to solve natural resource management and nature conservation problems. Funding is provided to local government and community groups for a range of activities, including awareness and training, planning, on ground actions, and monitoring.</p>	<p>Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry</p>
<p>TOURISM</p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commonwealth Tourism Programs</li></ul>	The program will fund initiatives which raise the domestic and international tourism potential throughout rural and regional Australia. It is aimed at creating jobs and spreading the economic benefits to these areas.	Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science and Tourism
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