

Foreword

This Employment White Paper is a roadmap for ensuring more Australians are the beneficiaries of the big shifts underway in the economy and our society over the coming decades. It crystallises our ambition for a dynamic and inclusive labour market in which Australians have the opportunity for secure, well-paid jobs in a country where workers, employers and communities can thrive and adapt.

Today our unemployment rate is around historic lows and the participation rate is around record highs. This positions us well in the face of the immediate challenges of slowing economic growth and continuing global uncertainty, but more needs to be done to shape the future direction of our labour market and put the benefits of employment within reach of more of our people.

That's why this White Paper is all about how we can work together to:

- deliver sustained and inclusive full employment
- promote job security and strong, sustainable wage growth
- reignite productivity growth
- fill skills needs and build our future workforce
- overcome barriers to employment and broaden opportunity.

Central to this endeavour will be recognising that a more productive, dynamic and competitive economy relies on investments in the skills and capabilities of our people so that they can grasp the opportunities that flow from changes in our industrial base and workforce needs. This is especially important as our economy shifts from hydrocarbons to renewables; from information technology to artificial intelligence; from a younger to an older workforce; with growth in the care and support economy; and as global fragmentation puts pressure on supply chains.

Government cannot meet this moment alone. Last year's Jobs and Skills Summit demonstrated what can be achieved through close cooperation and collaboration between workers, employers, civil society and the broader community.

We thank the hundreds of people and organisations who provided submissions, our ministerial colleagues for their input, and the Treasury team and officials from across the Government who put the White Paper together.

Together we recognise that work is more than a pay cheque; it's central to our identity, living standards and wellbeing. It's our collective responsibility to provide the dignity and security of work and to build the workforce we need for a stronger, fairer and more inclusive economy into the future.



The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister



The Hon Jim Chalmers MP
Treasurer