

Our History

In April 2021, Glen Innes Severn Council, in collaboration with the local community, submitted an Expression of Interest to become a NSW pilot site for the Community Connector Program, funded by the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal.

The Community Connector Program is the flagship initiative of Dr Cath Cosgrave's peer-reviewed Attract, Connect, Stay (ACS) Framework. Glen Innes was selected and successfully completed the pilot in December 2022 with the support of Dr Cosgrave and her team.

To deliver the pilot, Attract, Connect, Stay – Glen Innes Inc. was established in January 2022, led by founding Chairperson Sheryn Nourse. By July 2022, a Healthcare Workforce Recruiter Connector (HWRC) was contracted to attract and support healthcare professionals relocating to the Glen Innes community.

At the June 2023 AGM, Josephine Enoch was appointed Chairperson, supported by a new committee committed to sustaining the HWRC role through membership, fundraising, grants, and donations. This committee initiated the development of a Sustainable Business Plan, now overseen by a Board of Directors and delivered by an Executive Manager. The delivery of this plan saw the organisation rebrand as Local Connect – the business name for Attract, Connect, Stay – Glen Innes Incorporated.

In 2024, Local Connect successfully tendered to deliver the NSW Government's Welcome Experience across the Glen Innes and Inverell communities. This program supports the settlement and retention of essential service workers, expanding our work from healthcare into a wider set of critical roles.

Eligible participants include employees from NSW Health, Education, Police, Fire & Rescue, Ambulance, Corrective Services, and other essential sectors such as aged care, disability, and veterinary services. Delivering the Welcome Experience represents a natural evolution of our work – supporting essential workers and their families to feel connected, valued, and supported in rural communities



2021

Pilot Program commencement
with Dr Cath Cosgrave

2022

Incorporated NFP formed;
Charity Status; Healthcare
Workforce Recruiter Connector

2023

Sustainable Business Plan; Local
Events and Fundraising

2024

DPIRD Contract - The Welcome
Experience for all Essential
Service Workers

2025

The Welcome Experience;
Welcome Events; Partnership
Development; Projects; Doctor
Attraction Research

Today and the Future

Today, Local Connect continues to be a community-led organisation governed by a Board, working to strengthen rural workforce sustainability. We remain part of the Attract, Connect, Stay family, delivering practical, evidence-informed solutions that help people and communities thrive.

Through funding from the White Rock Wind Farm Community Fund, we are delivering our Sustainable Business Plan and engaged an Executive Manager to implement it. A key outcome of this plan is the development of a new regional workforce model that builds on ACS research while adapting it to our community's unique needs.

To achieve this, Local Connect is participating in the Rural Workforce Partnership (RWP) – a national collaboration between Unearthed Prosperity (Margot Davis), Attract Connect Stay (Dr Cath Cosgrave), and Jeanie Global (Dr Cindy Dennis). This partnership brings together expertise in workforce attraction, community integration, and organisational development.

Local Connect is a regional collaborator and beneficiary of the partnership. Through our participation, we are piloting innovative, evidence-based tools and approaches that support our region to attract, connect, and retain skilled professionals across essential industries.

Membership directly supports Local Connects role in implementing and evaluating this pilot locally, ensuring that Glen Innes and surrounding communities remain at the forefront of developing practical, community-led workforce solutions.

About the Rural Workforce Partnership Pilot

The Rural Workforce Partnership pilot brings together leading rural workforce specialists to co-design and test an integrated model for attracting, connecting, and retaining essential workers in rural, regional, and remote areas.

Over a 12-month period, pilot organisations across a variety of sectors will trial tailored approaches to strengthen workforce stability. The outcomes and learnings from this pilot will inform a scalable model that Local Connect will adapt and apply within our region.

The tools and resources developed through the pilot are part of a broader collaboration. Local Connect holds regional rights to use and adapt these resources for local benefit under licence from the Rural Workforce Partnership partners.



Membership provides you with the opportunity to:

- Support the development of innovative, locally led workforce solutions for our region.
- Gain early access to pilot updates, tools, and evidence-based insights.
- Participate in member-only learning sessions and regional forums.
- Contribute ideas and feedback to shape community-led workforce initiatives.
- Be recognised as part of a national movement improving workforce sustainability in rural Australia.

By joining Local Connect, you help our region lead innovation in rural workforce attraction and retention—turning research into real results for local people and employers.



Membership Benefits

INVESTMENT

All membership fees are reinvested into Local Connect's delivery of rural workforce programs and the implementation of the Rural Workforce Partnership pilot.

Individuals

For community members, professionals, and local champions who want to support workforce sustainability.

\$20 per annum

BENEFITS

- Quarterly Newsletters
- Welcome Events
- Workforce Development Forums
- Volunteering and Local Participation

Organisations

For community organisations and businesses who want to support workforce solutions and sustainability.

\$50 per annum

Micro
Businesses
1-4
employees

\$100 per annum

Small
Businesses
5-19
employees

\$250 per annum

Medium
Enterprises
20-199
employees

BENEFITS

- Quarterly Newsletters
- Welcome Events
- Workforce Development Forums
- Priority Access to Workforce Service

Rural Workforce Partnership

For organisations selected to participate directly in the Rural Workforce Partnership pilot.

\$ EOI

BENEFITS

- Become a pilot organisation
- Received a discounted workforce solution
- Test innovative workforce approaches

Join Us

By becoming a member, you are investing in the future of rural workforce sustainability. Together, we can:

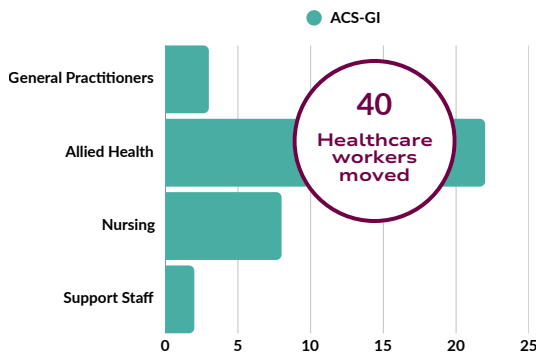
- Strengthen local services and community capacity.
- Support essential workers and their families to thrive in our region.
- Build a nationally recognised model for rural workforce attraction, connection, and retention.

localconnect.org

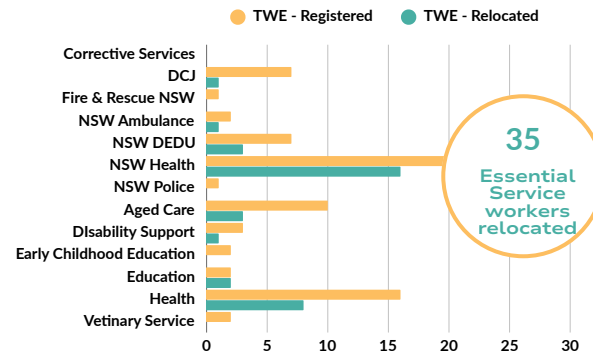


WE HELP PEOPLE SETTLE & CONNECT INTO GLEN INNES & INVERELL

Local Connect has helped settle and connect ESSENTIAL SERVICE WORKERS and their families to Glen Innes and Inverell from 2022 to April 2025 2024 initially through Attract, Connect, Stay - Glen Innes and then under The Welcome Experience, funded by the NSW Government's DPIRD.



RESULTS TO 31 JULY 2025



SOCIAL EVENTS & COMMUNITY CONNECTION




YOU'RE INVITED!
WELCOME TO INVERELL PIZZA PARTY

The Welder's Dog Inverell

Tuesday 18 November, 5.30pm to 8pm

Moved to Inverell in the past 12 months?
Join us for a slice of community at our FREE family-friendly pizza party! Registration essential.

The Welcome Experience




YOU'RE INVITED!
WELCOME TO GLEN INNES PIZZA NIGHT

The Great Central Hotel

Saturday 19 July, 6pm to 9pm

Have you moved to Glen Innes in the past 12 months?
Join us for a slice of community at our FREE family-friendly evening!

The Welcome Experience



\$5.5 million* ECONOMIC IMPACT

The estimated gain to the local economy from attracting and settling new-to-area professionals and their families - supporting local business and industry as well as helping to maintain service levels from state and federal government.

The figure is based on a total of 75 workers moved representing one household.

*Average Household expenditure of \$1,425 per week - \$74,100 per year x 40 new to area professionals for a 12 month period (<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/finance/household-expenditure-survey-australia-summary-results/latest-release#average-household-spending>)

PARTNER EMPLOYMENT & ASSISTANCE

Partners and children are settled into the community contributing to population growth and maintaining essential services. Partner employment brings new education and skills to the community and fills local job and skills gaps.

- HOMES
- SCHOOLING
- PARTNER JOBS
- CHILDCARE/NANNY
- COMMUNITY NETWORKING & CONNECTION

SOCIAL IMPACT

The social impact of an additional workforce in a community can affect various aspects of social cohesion, infrastructure, and overall community well-being leading to a more prosperous, inclusive, and cohesive community

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