



MID COAST CAREERS MARKET



2026 SUMMARY REPORT

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

*Building Pathways to Employment, Education and
Training Across the Mid North Coast*

Delivered by Mid Coast Connect in partnership with:



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A RECORD BREAKING YEAR

The 18th Annual Mid Coast Careers Market was held on 5 May 2026 at the Port Macquarie Race Club and delivered the largest event in recent years.

The event connected 1,385 students from across the Mid North Coast with employers, industry representatives, universities, training providers and support services.

Attendance increased by 30% compared to 2025, demonstrating the growing demand for career exploration, employment pathway information and workforce engagement opportunities.

The event continues to play a critical role in helping young people make informed decisions about their future education, training and employment pathways.

2026 AT A GLANCE

BY THE NUMBERS

1,385

STUDENTS
ATTENDED

95

EXHIBITOR
STANDS

51

ORGANISATIONS
REPRESENTED

18

SCHOOLS
PARTICIPATED

92%

EXHIBITORS
RETURNING IN
2027

83%

ATTENDEES
RATED EVENT
AS EXCELLENT

80%

SCHOOLS RATED
OVERALL
EXPERIENCE
EXCELLENT

30%

GROWTH IN
ATTENDANCE

OUR PARTNERS

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Together, our partners helped create one of the largest youth employment and career development events in the Mid North Coast region.



EXPLORE

CONNECTING STUDENTS WITH REAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Mid Coast Careers Market provides direct access to employers, training providers, universities and community organisations, giving students the chance to explore the full range of pathways available to them.



THE CAREERS MARKET PROVIDES ACCESS TO

- Employers
- Apprenticeship Providers
- Traineeship Providers
- Universities
- TAFE NSW
- Industry Representatives
- Community Organisations

ATTENDEES ENGAGED DIRECTLY WITH EMPLOYERS TO UNDERSTAND

- Employment Opportunities
- Apprenticeships & Traineeships
- Vocational Pathways
- University Pathways
- Skills for Future Work

EMPLOYER IMPACT

BUILDING THE FUTURE WORKFORCE

Numerous employer and business organisations participated in the event alongside industry associations and workforce development partners. Employers consistently reported strong engagement from students and valued the opportunity to connect with potential future apprentices, trainees and employees.

EMPLOYER FEEDBACK

"It is always good to meet future apprentices."

"It felt great talking with students about their future."

"Meeting students like you reminds us why we love what we do, your enthusiasm is contagious."

"Your curiosity and energy are exactly what the future of our industry needs, keep asking questions and chasing opportunities."



EXHIBITOR SHOWCASE

A DIVERSE RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES

21 Education & Training Providers

15 Employers & Businesses

10 Employment & Support Agencies

5 Government Organisations

FEATURED INDUSTRIES INCLUDED

Health

Engineering

Defense

Agriculture

Aviation

Community Services

Technology

Construction

Transport

Education

Emergency Services



STUDENT VOICES

WHAT STUDENTS SAID

"The Mid Coast Careers Market helped me feel more confident and prepared for the future. I walked away with useful information, fresh ideas and a better understanding of what steps I need to take next."

JASON

YEAR 12 — NEWMAN SENIOR TECHNICAL COLLEGE

"My experience as both a student and a work placement participant strengthened my confidence and helped me develop a greater understanding of the opportunities available beyond school."

LILY

YEAR 11 — NEWMAN SENIOR TECHNICAL COLLEGE



SCHOOL FEEDBACK

STRONG SUPPORT FROM SCHOOLS

80%

of schools rated the event as Excellent.

Careers Advisers described it as *"the best organised careers event we have attended."*

SCHOOLS PARTICULARLY VALUED

- The range of exhibitors
- Interactive displays
- Industry exposure
- Access to local employment opportunities
- Linking careers to experiences
- Employer role models
- Exhibitor engagement
- Productive conversations



COMMUNITY IMPACT

SUPPORTING REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The event strengthens collaboration between schools, employers, training providers and community organisations across the Mid North Coast, helping connect future workers with local opportunities, strengthen education to employment pathways, and support long-term regional workforce development.

- Increase awareness of local employment opportunities
- Promote apprenticeships and traineeships
- Connect employers with future workers
- Strengthen education-to-employment pathways
- Support regional workforce development
- Encourage informed career decision-making



LOOKING AHEAD

GROWING IMPACT

Mid Coast Connect remains committed to delivering high-quality career and workforce development events that support young people and strengthen regional employment outcomes.

92%

EXHIBITORS ALREADY
COMMITTED TO
RETURNING IN 2027

30%

ATTENDANCE INCREASE
IN THE PAST YEAR

THANK YOU

To our sponsors, exhibitors, schools, volunteers, teachers and students. Together we are helping young people explore opportunities, build confidence and create pathways into employment, education and training.



UNDERSTANDING

THE WHY

The Mid Coast Careers Market is built on the understanding that young people can't be what they can't see. The event plays an important role in raising awareness and aspirations by showcasing the range of career, education, and training opportunities available locally.

By bringing together local employers, education and training providers, employment services, apprenticeship and traineeship providers, disability service providers, government agencies, and other support organisations, the event creates a "one-stop shop" for information and engagement.

Through these connections, the event supports young people to explore pathways, build confidence, and make informed decisions about their future.

The event is primarily designed for students in Years 9 to 12, along with their teachers and carers, and is also open to the broader community, including those considering further study, training, or a career change.



OUR EXHIBITORS

Aboriginal Employment Strategy
ADF

Australian Cabinet & Furniture Association

Australian Aviation College

Bamara

Birdon

Bond University

Busy at Work

Country University Centre Macleay Valley

CSU - Allied Health & Exercise & Sports
Science

CSU - Education & Teaching

CSU - It & Engineering

CSU - Law & Business

CSU - Nursing

CSU - Nursing & Paramed Activation

CSU - Social Work

CSU -Paramedicine

Eastern Air

Engineers Australia

Essential Energy

ETC - Childcare

ETC - Communities-Individual Support

ETC - First Aid

ETC - Hospitality-Commercial Cookery

Everthough Education

Expressway Spares

Fire & Rescue

Headspace

Independent Schools NSW

International College of Management

International House of University QLD

International Sports College

Jim Pearson Transport

Key Community Group

King & Campbell

Learning Live / Men & Women at Work

Lifestyle Group

Luminosity

Mackie Electrical

Macquarie University

Manning Support Service

Mid Coast Connect

Mid North Coast Area Health

Mission Australia

National Parks & Wildlife

NSW Department of Education - Teach

NSW Police

Ostara

PMHC Animal Shelter

PMHC Careers

PMHC Digital Technology

PMHC Environmental Laboratory

PMHC Glasshouse

PMHC Operations Engineering

PMHC Port Macquarie Airport

PMHC Stormwater CCTV Crew

PMHC Stormwater CCTV Crew

Real Futures

Real Futures

Robert Menzies

SCU

SCU Indigenous Services

St Agnes Parish

Students of the world

TAFE - Aboriginal Engagement

TAFE - Business Services

TAFE - Cookery

TAFE - Creative Design

TAFE - Digital Technolgy

TAFE - Early Childhood

TAFE - Engineering

TAFE - Hair & Beauty

TAFE - Maritime

TAFE - Student Services

TAFE Animal Studies

TAFE Auto

TAFE Construction

TAFE Horticulture

The Wollotuka Institute

Thomas Scaffolding

University New England

University of Newcastle

UNSW Medicine

Zeal Futures