

MEDIA RELEASE

International push to fill local skills gaps

WIMMERA Southern Mallee employers have been urged to join a major international campaign to attract skilled workers to the region.

Four regional migration workers will travel to the United Kingdom this month in a bid to attract a new wave of skilled workers to fill local job vacancies.

Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Skilled Migration Manager Janet Heard said they would take with them position descriptions for local jobs.

“We’re now calling on regional employers to get in touch and send us a list of vacancies so that we can put those position descriptions in front of skilled professionals in London and other parts of England,” Ms Heard said.

She said that despite Australia’s decision to scale back its intake of skilled migrants during the global economic crisis, the region was still experiencing major skills gaps.

“This region is still experiencing a shortfall in specialist skills in a range industries and these need to be filled to enable businesses to grow,” Ms Heard said.

“In particular, we need more doctors, nurses and other health professionals, as well as accountants, town planners, scientists, pharmacists, teachers and computer programmers.”

Ms Heard said the four Skilled Migration Coordinators from Warrnambool, Geelong, Goulburn Murray and Swan Hill would represent 11 Victorian regions at a series of expos and events in England.

These included three London events – the Global Medical and Nursing Careers Expo, a ‘Discover Regional Victoria’ event, and the ‘Australia Needs Skills’ Expo – along with a State Roadshow in Manchester and other activities organised by Australia’s ‘G’day UK’ program.

“This is an excellent chance for us to showcase our region and to tell skilled professionals in the UK about the breadth of opportunity that awaits them here,” Ms Heard said.

She said the four Victorian migration workers, who had been charged with the task of encouraging skilled professionals to bring their families to live and work in the regions, would act as ambassadors for provincial Victoria.

To register job vacancies, contact Janet Heard, telephone 5381 6505 or email jheard@wda.org.au