

# #regionalvoice



## JANUARY 2023

Feeling refreshed after a Festive break, RCCIWA returned back to work on Monday January 9<sup>th</sup>. *#regionalvoice* is intended to be a brief snapshot of what we have been up to over the past month in supporting and representing our members.

### *Representation and Advocacy*

- The issues below are the ones that are of strongest concern all regional business communities in WA right now. In all meetings, conversations and at any opportunity, we explain in detail what the impact is and offer suggested solutions as well advocate for support, to try and ease the pressure.
  - Critical labour shortage – just not enough people in regional WA
  - Critical lack of housing and accommodation
  - Lack of Childcare
  - Ongoing impacts of COVID – long term business fatigue
  - Rising costs of doing business
- The Kimberley floods have been and continue to be devastating on many levels. Our Kimberley Chambers have been outstanding in supporting and advocating for their business and broader communities. Our role has been to offer background support to our members and connect decision makers to the data and relevant information that our Kimberley Chambers have been collecting and compiling to ensure the right support is provided in a very timely manner.
- Met with several [Industry Training Councils](#) in regard to skills requirements as they work on the State Priority Occupation List.

### *Stakeholder Engagement – Building important relationships – Meetings held this month*

- Met with the Community Engagement Team from [Western Power](#) discussing how RCCIWA can assist them in communicating more effectively with all relevant business communities and conveying that reliability of power supply was the top priority for all regional businesses their network covers. Learnt that businesses need to register to receive SMS alerts – it is not automatic like it is for residences. We would encourage all businesses to register.
- Met with [AusIndustry](#), discussing the support they provide to regional businesses and how we can assist in promoting their grant programs to our members. AusIndustry have fantastic well established relationships with our membership.
- General Manager Telstra WA's Regional Engagement Team – Boyd Brown
- [WA's Small Business Commissioner](#) and CEO of the Small Business Development Corporation, David Eaton
- The Team from the [WA Seniors Card Program](#) – we think this is a great program for so many regional businesses to become involved in.
- [Family Business Australia](#) – WA

### *One on One member Support*

We are a member driven organisation and our focus and priority is 100% members first, so we interact with and happily help our members all day every day. For this update we are not going to list every contact however below is a few examples of how we engaged with and supported our members over and above our regular support and information, during January.

- Wrote letters of support for three of our members who are submitting applications for funding to provide specific programs and projects for their members. We hope they are all successful.
- Travelled to Busselton to spend time with Victoria and Bronwyn from the BCCI, offering support, information, advice and assistance on a wide variety of issues and matters. A most enjoyable and valuable day.
- Provided Program support to eight of our members who are delivering funded services that we Project Manage.
- Held information sessions with three of our members giving a simple governance overview