2025-2026

Annual Report

Eighty9

Reports

4	Executive Chair's Report
8	Chief Executive Officer's Report
10	2025/26 at a Glance
12	Board of Directors
14	Ambassadors Association
16	Partnerships Team
18	Transition to Work
22	Inclusive Employment Australia
26	NDIS Customised Employment
30	Pivot Training
34	Counselling Support
36	ImpactEight

Community

40	Participant Voices
42	Partnerships and Affiliations
43	Memberships
44	Strategic Partnerships
46	ImpactEight Partnerships
47	Training Partnerships
48	Community Connections
49	Employment Partners
50	Eighty9 Offices

Eighty9 Limited acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultues, and Elders past and present.



Image: Ellenbrook, Western Australia. Opened in 2026, the multi-service office is home to Inclusive Employment Australia, Transition to Work and Pivot Training.



Executive Chair’s Report

It is with considerable pride and optimism that I present my report for the 2025/2026 financial year.

As I reflect on the year, I am reminded that it is now almost thirty-seven years since I founded this Organisation on 4 August 1989. For thirty-five years I served as Chief Executive Officer and, for most of the past twenty years, as Executive Chair. During that time, I have seen the Organisation navigate many periods of change, growth and challenge. Few years, however, have been as significant or transformational as the one now under review.

This has been a year in which the foundations have been laid for the Organisation’s next stage of growth. It has been a year of strategic achievement, substantial investment and organisational transformation. Most importantly, it has strengthened the Board’s confidence in the long-term future of Eighty9.

The successful Inclusive Employment Australia (IEA) tender outcome, the expansion of our operations across South Australia and Western Australia, the continued growth of our service offerings, major investments in technology, and the redevelopment of our Hindmarsh headquarters collectively represent one of the most significant periods of advancement in our history.

At the same time, it is important to acknowledge that our financial performance did not yet reflect the full potential of the Organisation. Revenue reached $33 million, the highest in our history, yet we recorded a net loss of approximately $782,000.

While disappointing, this result needs to be viewed in the context of the deliberate investments we have made during the year and the timing of revenues associated with our new contracts. The Board remains focused on ensuring that these investments translate into stronger and more sustainable financial returns in future years.

A Transformational Tendering Outcome

Without question, the defining achievement of the year was our success in securing the new Inclusive Employment Australia contract.

The Organisation was awarded all of the business for which it tendered across South Australia and Western Australia. This was an outstanding outcome and one that significantly expanded our operating footprint, increased our market presence and positioned Eighty9 as one of Australia’s leading specialist disability employment providers.

Winning all of the business tendered was about far more than growth.

It represented a strong endorsement of our people, our reputation, our governance and the quality of the services we deliver. It also demonstrated the confidence that the Commonwealth Government has placed in our ability to support people with disability to achieve meaningful employment outcomes.

Importantly, this outcome validated the strategic direction pursued by the Board over recent years. We have invested heavily in strengthening governance, technology, systems, capability, leadership and operational performance. The IEA result provides clear evidence that these investments are delivering tangible outcomes.

Performance Across Our Services

While the IEA tender outcome was undoubtedly the defining event of the year, it is important to recognise the contribution made by our other services.

Our Transition to Work program delivered another outstanding year. Financially, it was the Organisation’s strongest performing contract and generated a substantial operating surplus while continuing to assist young people into education, training and employment. The maturity and performance of this program provided important stability during a year of significant investment and change and was a major contributor to the Organisation’s overall financial position.

Not all areas of the Organisation performed as strongly. Our Registered Training Organisation, Pivot Training, continued to experience challenges in participant referrals and long-term engagement, particularly within the SEE program. While the quality of service delivery remains strong and participant outcomes continue to exceed a number of contractual benchmarks, utilisation levels did not meet expectations and the division recorded a significant financial loss. Improving participation, productivity and financial performance within the RTO will be a major focus during the coming year.

We also continued to grow our NDIS services and expand the reach of ImpactEight, Dress for Success Adelaide and Geared for Success. While smaller in scale than our major government contracts, these programs remain important expressions of our purpose and commitment to creating opportunities for the communities we serve.

Investing in Our Future

The confidence generated by the IEA outcome also contributed to the Board’s decision to commit approximately $4 million to the comprehensive redevelopment of our Hindmarsh headquarters.

This is one of the most substantial capital investments ever undertaken by the Organisation. It reflects our confidence in the future and our belief that the building should continue to serve the Organisation for decades to come.

The redevelopment includes extensive accessibility improvements, new amenities, a disability and goods lift, external building upgrades, modern workplace design, advanced technology infrastructure, improved security systems and a major solar installation.

The first floor has effectively been stripped back to its shell and reimagined as a contemporary workplace designed to support productivity, innovation and collaboration.

This project is far more than a building refurbishment.

It is an investment in our culture, our people and the way we work. It creates an environment capable of supporting the Organisation’s future growth while providing a workplace that reflects the quality and professionalism of the services we deliver.

Strengthening Capability and Governance

The Board has always recognised that growth must be underpinned by strong governance.

Throughout the year we continued to strengthen our governance frameworks, risk management systems, cyber security capability and organisational infrastructure. Significant work was undertaken in preparation for new Right Fit for Risk requirements, ongoing ISO certifications and the increasing expectations placed on service providers operating in complex government-funded environments.

We also continued substantial investments in technology and organisational capability.

Major milestones included the Organisation-wide Microsoft 365 migration, the implementation of Employment Hero, continued cyber security enhancements, expansion of cloud technologies and ongoing development of systems designed to improve productivity, accountability and service delivery.

These investments are not always immediately visible in financial results, but they are essential in building an organisation capable of operating effectively at a much larger scale.

Financial Performance

Revenue of $33 million represents a record result for Eighty9 and reflects the significant growth achieved over recent years.

However, revenue alone is not enough.

The Organisation recorded a net loss of approximately $782,000. For an organisation of our size and with the opportunities now before us, this is not a result that the Board considers acceptable over the longer term.

During the year we incurred significant costs associated with IEA mobilisation, workforce expansion, property growth, technology investment and organisational restructuring. Many of these costs were incurred in advance of full contract maturity and before referral numbers reached the levels originally forecast.

Importantly, we continue to see encouraging growth in IEA caseloads, participant engagement and employment outcomes. As these contracts mature, the Board expects improved utilisation of our resources and stronger financial performance.

The challenge ahead is straightforward.

We have secured the contracts, expanded our footprint and invested heavily in capability. We must now convert that investment into sustainable profitability and long-term value.

Looking Ahead

The year ahead will be one of execution.

The opportunities before us are substantial. We have expanded our market presence, enhanced our infrastructure, strengthened our leadership capability and invested in systems that can support future growth.

The implementation of the IEA contracts will continue to mature across South Australia and Western Australia. The completion of the Hindmarsh redevelopment will deliver a contemporary workplace capable of supporting the Organisation's next chapter. At the same time, we will maintain a strong focus on productivity, accountability and financial sustainability.

The Board remains ambitious for the Organisation, but equally conscious that sustainable growth requires operational discipline and sound financial management.

Our People

None of the achievements of the past year would have been possible without the dedication of our people.

The successful delivery of one of the largest organisational expansions in our history required extraordinary effort from employees, managers and leaders across the business.

I have been particularly encouraged by the resilience demonstrated throughout a period of considerable change. Whether supporting participants, opening new sites, implementing new systems, recruiting new staff or managing major internal projects, our people have consistently risen to the challenge.

I would also like to acknowledge our Chief Executive Officer, Darrin Johnson. Having succeeded me in the role two years ago as only the second Chief Executive Officer in the Organisation's history, Darrin has led the Organisation through a period of significant growth and transformation. The successful implementation of the IEA contract, the expansion of our operations and the continued strengthening of our leadership capability reflect his commitment and leadership. I thank him for his contribution and look forward to continuing to work closely with him in the years ahead.

I also acknowledge the contribution of my fellow Directors and thank them for their continued commitment to good governance, strategic oversight and the long-term sustainability of the Organisation.

Conclusion

As I look back on the 2025/2026 financial year, I believe it will be remembered as one of the most important years in the history of Eighty9.

We secured all of the IEA business for which we tendered across two states. We expanded our geographic footprint. We invested substantially in people, systems, governance, technology and infrastructure. We achieved record revenue and positioned the Organisation for future growth.

The financial loss recorded during the year is disappointing and serves as an important reminder that growth must ultimately translate into sustainable financial performance. However, the Board believes the foundations are now firmly in place.

Having been part of this Organisation since its founding in 1989, I remain as optimistic about its future as I have ever been.

The opportunities ahead are significant. The challenge is to execute well, remain disciplined and ensure the investments made during this transformational year deliver the outcomes expected.

I remain confident in the future of Eighty9 and, most importantly, confident in the people who will deliver it.

Sincerely,

Gary Hatwell, FAICD
Executive Chair,
Eighty9 Limited





Chief Executive Officer’s Report

The 2025/26 financial year has brought significant growth and change to Eighty9. We now serve more communities across South Australia and Western Australia, with a broader range of services and a much larger team. The task ahead is to turn that increased reach into consistently strong services and sustainable performance.

We ended the year with 48 offices and 296 employees. Twenty-seven of those offices opened during 2025/26, largely as we established the new Inclusive Employment Australia (IEA) services. This expansion happened at pace, while our existing teams continued to support participants, employers and communities every day.

Opening a new location is only the beginning. It takes time to build a capable local team, form relationships with employers and community partners, and earn the trust of participants. Across Eighty9, our people recruited and inducted colleagues, set up offices, adapted to new systems and contracts, and maintained services through a demanding period of change. I am grateful for their commitment and resilience.

Building Our Capability

Growth has also required us to think differently about how we work together. Employment, training, counselling, NDIS and our ImpactEight community services each bring valuable expertise. The needs of the people who come to us, however, do not always fit neatly within one service. Someone seeking work may also need to build confidence, strengthen literacy or digital skills, or address a challenge affecting their wellbeing.

Our opportunity is to make those connections easier for participants and for our staff. That means understanding what each part of Eighty9 can offer, identifying when another service can help, and making practical referrals rather than expecting people to navigate the system alone. We have more to do to make this consistent across a larger Organisation, but it is central to the quality of service we want to provide.

We have also invested considerable effort in the systems and support that sit behind frontline delivery. As our footprint expands, clear processes, reliable information and capable local leadership become increasingly important. The value of these investments will be measured by whether they help our teams spend more time supporting people and deliver better outcomes.

Challenging Our Services

Our services entered this period of growth from different starting points. Transition to Work again delivered strong results and provided an important source of stability. Its established teams and relationships show the value of consistent service delivery over time.

IEA is at an earlier stage. Mobilising a contract of this scale across two states was a major achievement. The next phase requires us to build caseloads, deepen employer relationships and improve outcomes as the new services mature. We will need to pay close attention to local performance and respond quickly where referrals, engagement or employment outcomes fall short of expectations.

Pivot Training faces a different challenge. The quality of its training and participant outcomes remain strengths, but referrals and participation in the SEE program have been below the levels needed to make full use of our classrooms and trainers. We are reviewing the pathway from referral through assessment and commencement, and how we can better engage people for whom classroom learning may feel difficult or unfamiliar. This work must improve both access for participants and the sustainability of the service.

At the same time, our NDIS employment services, counselling and ImpactEight community programs continued to develop. Their growth creates opportunities to support people in different ways. We must remain clear about the needs each service meets and the resources required to deliver it well.

The Year Ahead

The financial result makes it clear that we cannot judge success by the size of the Organisation alone. We have invested ahead of the full maturity of new services. Our challenge is to ensure our people, offices and systems are used effectively, while maintaining the quality and care on which our reputation depends.

In 2026/27 our priorities are to strengthen IEA performance as caseloads grow, improve participation and utilisation in Pivot Training, and support the continued development of our other services. Across the Organisation, we will use better information to understand performance, simplify work where we can and hold ourselves accountable for results.

As we do this, we must protect the personal approach that has always mattered to Eighty9. The participant stories in this report are a reminder that behind every referral, appointment and outcome is a person seeking an opportunity to move forward. Our growth matters when it helps us respond to that person well.

I thank our employees for their work throughout an extraordinary year, and our employers, community organisations and government partners for working alongside us. I also thank the Board for its constant support and guidance.

We have built a larger and more capable Organisation. Our responsibility now is to make it work well for the people and communities we serve.

Sincerely,
Darrin Johnson
Chief Executive Officer,
Eighty9 Limited

2025/26 at a Glance

Our Reach

Inclusive Employment Australia participants supported over 130,000 appointments

3,062

Transition to Work participants supported

2,500+

Hours of LLND training delivered by Pivot Training

174,000

ImpactEight client appointments delivered

2,067

Participants accessing counselling services over 1,980 individual sessions

550+

Employers supported by Status to fill vacancies

1,152

Our Impact

Employment commencements for Transition to Work participants

1,088

Inclusive Employment Australia participants placed into employment

382

ImpactEight clients who reported securing employment

557

Pivot Training VET in Schools students who completed their VET Program in 2025/26

74



Our Growth

Eighty9 offices now operating

48

New offices opened in 2025/26

27

Employment Service Areas

10

Growth in NDIS Employment Services caseload

100%

Growth in demand for Counselling Services

100%



Our People

Staff now employed across South Australia and Western Australia

296

Workforce growth during 2025-26

27%

Percentage of women across our workforce

74%

Women in executive leadership

73%





Our Vision

Eighty9 Limited aims, through our brands, to deliver exceptional service to unemployed and disadvantaged persons that alleviates inequality in society.

Our Mission

Through its brands, Eighty9 supports people experiencing barriers to education and employment to achieve social and economic independence by increasing skills, providing training and assisting them to achieve sustainable employment.

Our Values

At the heart of our Organisation is the commitment to RISE.

Respect - Treating people with respect, recognising them as they are and always offering compassionate support.

Integrity - Being transparent and honest in all our work and relationships, and accountable for our performance

Service - Being dedicated to serving and helping people to overcome their challenges no matter how difficult.

Empowerment - Encouraging agency and control through active participation in our programs and services

Board of Directors

Providing strategic oversight and governance of Eighty9, supporting sustainable growth while ensuring the organisation remains aligned to its purpose and values.

The Board guided Eighty9 through a year of significant growth and transformation, including the successful transition to Inclusive Employment Australia, expansion into new Employment Service Areas, substantial workforce growth and continued investment in infrastructure, technology and service capability.

Throughout the year, the Board remained focused on strategic decision-making, long-term sustainability and effective governance. This included oversight of major organisational initiatives and continued commitment to quality, risk management and regulatory compliance.

The Board also acknowledges the contribution of employees, volunteers, partners and stakeholders across South Australia and Western Australia, whose dedication and commitment help create opportunities for the people and communities we serve.

We extend our sincere thanks to the members of the Eighty9 Board for their ongoing service and leadership.

Eighty9 Limited Board Members



Gary Hatwell FAICD
Executive Chair

Gary has over 45 years of strategic management experience within government and non-government sectors, 37 of which have been dedicated to the development of Eighty9 Limited.

In 1989 Gary co-founded Eighty9 Limited as Inner Western Workskills. He served as Chief Executive Officer of the Company from foundation until August 2024, and for the last 20 years as Executive Chair.

In 2015 Gary was made a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, recognising the stewardship and success achieved in directing the work of Eighty9 Limited.



Julie Hatwell FCPA
Non-Executive Director

Julie commenced with Eighty9 Limited in 1989 in a voluntary capacity to establish the Organisation's financial systems. As the Organisation grew she was engaged as a financial consultant, and in 1997 she was appointed to the role of Executive Manager, Finance. During this time Julie has served Eighty9 Limited as a founding member of the Board of Directors of Status, Treasurer of Eighty9 Limited, and founding Board member of ImpactEight, overseeing Dress for Success Adelaide and Geared for Success.

Julie is a University qualified Accountant and a Fellow of the Australian Society of Certified Public Accountants. Retiring in 2025, Julie continues to serve the Organisation in her capacity as a Non-Executive Director, with specific responsibility for finance, risk and audit.



Vikki Lewis
Non-Executive Director

Vikki commenced with Eighty9 Limited in 1995, and in 1997 was appointed to the role of Executive Manager Training Services.

Vikki has served Eighty9 Limited as a founding member of the Board of Directors of Status, and founding Board member of ImpactEight, overseeing Dress for Success Adelaide and Geared for Success. Since retiring in 2014 Vikki has continued to serve the Organisation as a Non-Executive Director of Eighty9 Limited.

With Masters qualifications in education and counselling, Vikki has a particular interest in training and the roles that literacy and numeracy, vocational training, and employability skills development play in assisting disadvantaged people into paid work.



David George FASRC
Non-Executive Director

David commenced with Eighty9 Limited in 1997, and until his retirement in 2014 served as the Executive Manager Corporate and Disability Services.

David is one of the original Directors of Status, and in his role as Executive Manager Corporate and Disability Services he has overseen contractual performance and governance across our brands and services. From 2010 to 2014 David directly managed our Disability Employment Services, which remains a special interest both personally and professionally as a Fellow of the Australian Society of Rehabilitation Counsellors.

In 2023, David was admitted to membership of the Rehabilitation Medicine Society of Australia and New Zealand.



Our Ambassadors

Gary Hatwell
Edith Thew
Julie Hatwell
Dora Zalunardo
Vikki Lewis
David George
Wendy Krantis
Emma Farina
Lana Bobkova
Tanya Raynham
Beverley Felmingham
Yvonne Christophides
Tarsha Crumpton
Justin Fletcher
Scott Foody
Jenna Treis
Kristie Tumicz
Rebecca Carletti
Louise Tomaselli
Sandra Beagley
Anysa Williams
Simone O'Neill
Joan Knezevic

New Ambassadors Inducted in 2025/26

Kylie Baehnisch
Jonathon Mourcella

Ambassadors Association

The Eighty9 Ambassadors Association recognises employees for the contribution they have made to the Organisation through 10 or more years of service.

The Eighty9 Ambassadors Association was established in May 2015 with 16 members and has continued to grow alongside the Organisation, now comprising 25 Ambassadors. Collectively, these long-serving employees represent more than 533 years of service to Eighty9, bringing an extraordinary depth of knowledge, experience and understanding of the Organisation's culture and values.

Ambassadors play an important role in recognising and celebrating the contributions of staff throughout their employment journey. Throughout the year, the Association continued to acknowledge key milestones including service anniversaries, staff birthdays, successful completion of induction programs, and other important achievements. These initiatives help foster a culture of recognition, connection and belonging across the Organisation.

The Association also continues to contribute to preserving Eighty9's history and traditions. Staff reaching five years of service are recognised on the Eighty9 Honours Board, while those who achieve ten years of service become eligible for Ambassador membership.

In recent years, the introduction of Life Membership has further strengthened the Association's contribution by ensuring the knowledge, experience and fellowship of long-serving employees remains connected to the Organisation beyond retirement. Life Membership is awarded to Ambassadors who reach 25 years of service and continues beyond retirement or resignation from the Organisation. Life Members remain connected through ongoing involvement in the Ambassadors Association and annual celebrations and are recognised with the gold AROD badge representing the Ambassadors Recognition of Outstanding Dedication.

In addition to recognising service, Ambassadors act as a source of support and guidance for employees across Eighty9. Through mentoring, professional direction and a shared commitment to organisational values, Ambassadors help maintain the culture that has underpinned Eighty9's success for more than three decades.

Guided by the RISE values of Respect, Integrity, Service and Empowerment, the Association remains committed to preserving the culture, history and principles of Eighty9 while supporting the people who contribute to its ongoing success.

The fellowship enjoyed by members of the Ambassadors Association remains an important part of its identity. Each year, Ambassadors gather to celebrate the Organisation's foundation on or around the 3rd of August. In 2025-2026, the 36th Anniversary of celebration was held at Illuminate Adelaide - Horizon's Drone Spectacular, providing an opportunity for Ambassadors to reconnect, reflect on the Organisation's journey and celebrate the people who have helped shape its success.





Images: New Ambassadors Kylie (top right) and Jonathon (bottom right), both pictured with Ambassador co-chair Edith Thew.

Creating Opportunities through Collaboration

The Partnerships Team builds relationships with employers, industry and community partners to create pathways to employment, training and practical support for participants across South Australia and Western Australia.

Throughout 2025–26, the Partnerships Team continued to strengthen connections between Eighty9, employers, councils, training organisations, industry and community stakeholders across South Australia and Western Australia. These relationships played an important role in creating opportunities for participants while supporting collaboration across Eighty9 services.

A key focus throughout the year was connecting participants with employment opportunities through Workforce Connect, a collaborative model that brings together the employer engagement activity of Partnership Managers and Status Employment Engagement Consultants. Through these employer relationships, participants were connected with job opportunities across a range of industries, helping create pathways to sustainable employment and increased economic participation. Leading employer partners in the 25-26 period included Recruitco, Decking Perth, Kmart Australia, Randstad and Subway.

Employment expos and community engagement activities also provided opportunities for participants to connect directly with employers, training providers and support services. Across both states, events helped increase awareness of available pathways while creating valuable opportunities for participants to engage with industry and employment networks. Our Platinum Sponsorship of the Northern Adelaide Jobs and Careers Expo further strengthened Eighty9's visibility within the employment and training sector, showcasing the breadth of support available through both Pivot Training and Status Employment.

Partnerships established throughout the year delivered benefits beyond employment outcomes alone. Collaboration with Colonnades Shopping Centre led to new professional development opportunities through the Retail Rise Up program, while partnerships with Woolworths supported the establishment of the Mini Woolies initiative. These projects demonstrated how strong industry relationships can create practical learning and development opportunities for participants and employees alike.

The team also secured funding from RAA to help disadvantaged individuals to address a common barrier to employment: access to a driver's licence. The Driver Support Program helped participants build confidence, gain driving experience and improve their employment prospects. Following positive outcomes, the program received ongoing funding for 2026-27, ensuring more participants will have access to this important support in the future.









Images: Community engagement and partnership activities throughout 2025–26, including the Colonnades Job Fair and the City of Stirling Activities Day.

1,152
Employers supported by Status to fill job vacancies

423
Employment placements faciliated through Partnerships

393
Participant referrals generated through employment events

$25,000
Community funding secured from RAA for participant driving lessons











Images: Transition to Work participants and staff engaging in employment, wellbeing and community activities throughout 2025–26, including the KWY Summit, Mindfulness in Action workshops, Aboriginal Justice Day activities, an Indigenous Art Session and a visit to Status Midland by the Hon. Amanda Rishworth, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.

Creating Pathways for Young People

The Workforce Australia - Transition to Work (TtW) program supports young people to explore opportunities, overcome barriers and build pathways to employment, education and independence.

The success of our Transition to Work program is driven by dedicated staff who believe in the potential of every young person. Every day our teams work alongside young people facing complex personal, social and economic barriers to help them build confidence, access opportunities and achieve their goals. **Our people remain our greatest strength**.

Throughout 2025–26 we have strengthened connections with local communities by expanding delivery into Old Reynella, Ellenbrook, Yanchep and Two Rocks. By bringing support closer to where young people live, learn and work, Transition to Work increased access to services while creating stronger connections with schools, employers, community organisations and local networks.

Our strongest outcomes this year were driven by collaboration. Mentors, Employer Engagement Consultants, Partnerships Teams, Trainers and qualified Counsellors worked together to provide coordinated support tailored to each young person's needs. This is our Global Service Model at its best. Different expertise. Shared purpose. Better outcomes.

This collaborative approach also supported the continued evolution of the STRIVE and Empower programs, the introduction of Pathways to Paydays, and expanded access to career and wellbeing counselling. Together, these initiatives helped young people build confidence, prepare for work, explore career pathways and achieve their goals; new competencies and qualities participants were eager to share with the Hon. Amanda Rishworth, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations during her visit to Status Midland in October 2025.

Strong partnerships with organisations such as RAA, Iron Merge, Upskill Global, Strategix, local schools and councils brought together employers, training providers, community organisations and support services around a shared goal: helping young people succeed. Through initiatives including International Women's Day, Aboriginal Justice Day, Your Drive Journey and Linked 2 Opportunities, young people were connected with opportunities to build skills, explore career pathways, access further education and training, and move closer to employment.

We recognise that creating opportunities often means helping young people overcome practical barriers standing in their way. Sometimes the solution is a program, sometimes it is a partnership, and sometimes it is a simple intervention that opens the door to greater independence. When participant Mostyn secured employment, access to reliable transport became a barrier to maintaining work. Through individualised support, Mostyn was assisted to purchase an eScooter, helping him continue travelling to work each day and maintain his employment. Stories like Mostyn's demonstrate our commitment to seeing possibility where others see barriers and creating opportunities where others see challenges.

As Transition to Work continues to grow, the focus remains on empowering young people to achieve their aspirations, strengthen their connection to community and build positive futures through employment, education and opportunity.

2,500+
Young participants supported by Transition to Work in the 2025/26 financial year

1,088
Transition to Work participants gained employment in the 2025/26 financial year

700+
Participants commenced education or study

400+
Participants achieved over 6 months in employment

Mahder's Story: Reigniting a Dream

Mahder joined Status' Transition to Work program in March 2026. With strong connections to family and culture, Mahder had been studying Speech Pathology at university and planned to build a career in the health sector. When the demands of study became difficult to manage and the support needed at the time was not available, Mahder made the difficult decision to withdraw from the course.

When Mahder first connected with the program, anxiety, stress and uncertainty about the future had become significant challenges. Transition to Work provided an opportunity to regain stability, build confidence and develop a pathway towards greater independence while keeping long-term goals in sight.

Working alongside a Link Worker and Youth Peer Mentor, Mahder participated in employment preparation activities, including face-to-face interview coaching. With support from an Employment Engagement Consultant, Mahder secured employment as a Sales Assistant with Prouds Jewellers in May 2026, just two months after joining the program.

Employment was an important milestone, but Mahder recognised that maintaining wellbeing would be key to ongoing success. By engaging regularly with a qualified counsellor, Mahder developed practical strategies to manage workplace and personal pressures while continuing to build confidence and resilience.

This same determination helped Mahder revisit a long-term goal of returning to university. With encouragement from the Transition to Work team, contact was re-established with the university and a plan was developed to support re-enrolment in Speech Pathology next year.

Mahder continues to maintain employment with Prouds Jewellers, gaining valuable workplace experience and increased financial independence while preparing for a return to study. Looking ahead, she is planning a trip to Ethiopia to reconnect with family and culture before taking the next step towards her long-term goal of becoming a Speech Pathologist.

Image Left: Mahder and Link Worker Paula outside the Status Mirrabooka office.

Image Right: Shane preparing burgers as part of his Certificate III in Food Processing.



Shane's Story: Cooking up Confidence

The smile on Shane's face as he prepares burgers tells only part of the story.

Shane joined Status' Transition to Work program in November 2025. As a young Aboriginal participant experiencing housing and transport challenges, alongside low confidence and motivation, maintaining consistent engagement was initially difficult and finding the right direction took time.

Through regular support from a Mentor and Link Worker, Shane gradually became more involved in the program. Consistent encouragement, transport assistance and connection with the Toward Home Alliance Aboriginal Team helped Shane remain engaged while accessing culturally appropriate support around his housing circumstances.

A turning point came when Shane commenced a Certificate III in Food Processing. The practical, hands-on approach suited his learning style and allowed him to build confidence while developing skills in food processing, production operations and basic logistics. Just as importantly, it provided an opportunity to participate in a team environment and experience the satisfaction that comes from achieving personal goals.

In March 2026, Shane successfully completed the Certificate III in Food Processing, gaining a nationally recognised qualification and an important stepping stone towards future employment. The achievement reflected not only the skills he had gained, but also the determination and persistence he demonstrated throughout the journey.

Today, Shane continues to actively engage with the Noarlunga Transition to Work team and is participating in the STRIVE program, further strengthening his work readiness and preparing for the next step in his employment journey.



Expanding Access to Employment

Inclusive Employment Australia helps people with disability, injury and health conditions build confidence, develop skills and connect with meaningful employment opportunities.

The 2025-26 financial year marked a significant milestone for Eighty9 Limited as the successful transition from Disability Employment Services (DES) to Inclusive Employment Australia (IEA) created new opportunities to support more people with disability across South Australia and Western Australia. The success of our tender resulted in the largest period of growth in our service's history, significantly expanding our reach, workforce and service delivery capacity across both states.

Maintaining our Status brand, we expanded into three new Employment Service Areas during the year and now operate across 10 Employment Service Areas throughout SA and WA. Twenty-seven new service locations were established, taking our network from 23 to 40 offices. This expansion brought employment support closer to participants across metropolitan, regional and outer regional communities while strengthening connections with employers, training providers and community organisations.

Supporting this growth required significant investment in people and workforce development. Disability employment staff more than doubled during the year, supporting increased demand while maintaining personalised services. Disability Awareness and Inclusive Practice training strengthened staff capability to deliver accessible, participant-centred services and support individuals to navigate employment with confidence.

A strong focus was also placed on creating more inclusive workplaces and communities. The Access & Inclusion Manager worked alongside employers to promote workplace accessibility, reasonable adjustments and inclusive employment practices. Community Connection Days further strengthened local partnerships, bringing together participants, employers and community organisations to create pathways to employment and community participation.

An important achievement during the year was the establishment of Eighty9's inaugural Disability Advisory Panel. Comprised of members with lived experience of disability from South Australia and Western Australia, the Panel provides valuable insight to help shape more accessible and inclusive practices. The Panel contributed practical recommendations on recruitment and employment practices, office accessibility, environmental design and service delivery. These lived-experience perspectives are helping drive meaningful improvements across Eighty9, ensuring our offices, systems and services are more accessible, welcoming and inclusive for participants, staff and visitors alike.

The transition to IEA has strengthened our ability to deliver flexible, personalised and inclusive employment support. Building on these foundations, the team will continue to focus on participant outcomes, employer engagement and creating more opportunities for people with disability to achieve their employment goals.









Images: Community Connection activities bringing participants together through workshops, celebrations and social activities that strengthen connections and encourage community participation.

3,062
Inclusive Employment Australia Participants supported by Status

130,000
Appointments held with Inclusive Employment Australia participants across Adelaide and Perth

382
Inclusive Employment Australia participants now in employment

40
Locations delivering Inclusive Employment Australia

Nicole's Story: Returning to the Classroom

Nicole believed her teaching career was over. After medical challenges forced her to leave the classroom, she found herself facing uncertainty, self-doubt and a loss of confidence.

Teaching had always been central to Nicole's identity and sense of purpose. After health challenges forced her to leave the profession, she struggled to imagine a pathway back to the classroom and began to question whether she would ever teach again.

Reflecting on that period, Nicole said:

"I believed my teaching career was over. I had lost my confidence, my sense of purpose, and my belief in my own capability."

Beyond the loss of employment, Nicole felt she was losing a vocation in which she had previously felt valued and successful. As time passed, the prospect of returning to teaching seemed increasingly out of reach and she began to doubt her own abilities and future opportunities.

With support from Status, Nicole was able to reflect on what meaningful employment could look like while navigating the impact of her changing circumstances. Through personalised support, regular encouragement and a renewed focus on her strengths and goals, she began exploring pathways that would allow her to return to education in a way that supported her health, wellbeing and long-term career aspirations.

Although she had spent several years away from formal teaching, Nicole remained committed to her profession. Throughout that time she continued investing in professional development, completing training across areas including child protection, inclusive education, Indigenous education strategies, technology and contemporary classroom practice.

She also maintained practical experience through volunteering in school environments and supporting educational activities.

As her confidence gradually returned, so did her belief in what was possible. Nicole credits the support of her workplace coach, employment consultant and counsellor with helping her recognise that what had happened was not a reflection of her ability or value as an educator.

"With the support of my workplace coach, inclusive employment agency and counsellor, I began to see new possibilities and understand that what had happened was not a reflection of my worth or ability."

Nicole describes the encouragement she received throughout the process as instrumental in helping her move forward.

"Their guidance, belief in me, and consistent check-ins made all the difference."

This dedication ensured Nicole was ready when opportunities to return to teaching emerged. She successfully recommenced relief teaching and is now engaged with multiple schools in her local area. Her professionalism, adaptability and current knowledge have seen her consistently engaged for relief work and offered additional temporary teaching opportunities.

Returning to the classroom has restored Nicole's confidence and sense of purpose while allowing her to continue contributing to a profession she values deeply. Relief teaching now provides the flexibility she needs while enabling her to do the work she loves. What once felt like the end of her teaching career has become the beginning of a new chapter, built on confidence, capability and a renewed belief in what is possible.

Image Right: Simon celebrating his employment success after progressing from a new recruit to Store Manager in less than six months.

Simon's Story: From Caregiver to Store Manager

When Simon first connected with Status, he was navigating a period of significant personal responsibility while caring for his ageing parents. Although highly motivated to find employment, balancing these commitments made it difficult to focus on job searching and career goals.

Working alongside the Status team, Simon received flexible support tailored to his circumstances. Assistance with identification, resume preparation, job applications, interview preparation and ongoing employment planning helped him remain focused on his long-term employment goals, even while managing complex family responsibilities.

As opportunities were explored, Simon applied for a position with a newly opening Barbeques Galore store. The role aligned perfectly with his previous sales experience and personal passion for barbequing and smoking meat. With support from his Employment Consultant and Geared for Success, Simon prepared for the recruitment process and successfully secured the position.

What followed exceeded expectations. Simon quickly established himself within the business, becoming the lead for in-store cooking demonstrations before progressing to Duty Manager and then Store Manager in less than six months. His passion, knowledge and commitment helped turn an employment opportunity into a thriving career pathway.

Today, Simon describes himself as the happiest he has ever been. He continues to enjoy a role that combines his interests with meaningful career progression while building a brighter future for himself and his family.



Strengthening Disability Employment Pathways

NDIS Employment Services support participants to build skills, confidence and connections through evidence-informed, customised employment support.

2025–26 was a year of significant growth and innovation for NDIS Employment Services. A major achievement was the development and implementation of the Customised Employment Model, strengthening the service's ability to provide individualised and evidence-informed employment support for participants across South Australia and Western Australia.

The model supports participants to discover their strengths, interests and employment goals while building pathways that reflect their individual aspirations and circumstances. Through Discovery, Job Planning, Job Development and Post Employment Support, participants are assisted to explore opportunities, gain experience and pursue employment outcomes aligned with their skills and interests.

Growth throughout the year enabled the service to expand its reach and support more participants than ever before. New Employment Coaches joined the team across both states, increasing capacity while helping ensure participants continued to receive high-quality, individualised support. Despite workforce recruitment challenges experienced across the sector, the service successfully expanded while maintaining a strong focus on participant outcomes and service quality.

Participants engaged in vocational exploration, work experience and employment opportunities across a range of industries. Early feedback following the implementation of the Customised Employment Model was highly encouraging, with participant satisfaction increasing and stakeholders responding positively to the personalised approach. The service also strengthened quality, compliance and operational systems, creating a strong foundation for future growth and ongoing participant success.

As demand for customised employment support continues to grow, the focus remains on helping participants identify their strengths, build confidence and achieve meaningful employment outcomes that support greater independence and community participation.









Images: NDIS Employment Services participants whose individual journeys demonstrate the many pathways to employment, community participation and greater independence.

100%
Increase in our caseload when compared to 24/25 financial year

82%
Participant satisfaction for Customised Employment

2x
Revenue from our NDIS employment services doubled this financial year

Jett's Story: Growing Through Employment

Jett joined BlueSky Mind Studio's NDIS Employment Services and Status' Inclusive Employment Australia (IEA) program with a goal of building confidence, establishing routine and creating a pathway towards greater independence.

Through a coordinated approach that brought together NDIS Employment Supports, Inclusive Employment Australia and Workforce Connect, Jett was supported to develop the skills, confidence and stability needed to prepare for employment.

Throughout his journey, Jett explored a range of opportunities to identify his strengths, interests and career goals. Along the way, he completed a Barista course, coffee crafting training, RSA qualifications and a manager's licence, building valuable employability skills and confidence. Through workplace visits, travel training, budgeting support and practical employment preparation, Jett gradually developed the independence needed to pursue meaningful employment.

Employment preparation extended beyond building workplace skills. Jett worked on developing routines, strengthening financial literacy and increasing confidence in managing day-to-day responsibilities. He was also supported to navigate anxiety, build emotional resilience and develop strategies that would help him succeed both in employment and in everyday life.

As Jett's confidence grew, so did his interest in hands-on outdoor work. With support from his employment team, he secured a role as a Gardener with Dismantle, an opportunity that closely aligned with his strengths and interests. The coordinated support he received before and after commencement helped ensure a smooth transition into employment and set the foundations for long-term success.

The achievement represented more than simply gaining a job. Employment provided an opportunity for Jett to contribute to his community, earn his own income and continue building the independence he had been working towards throughout the program

Jett is enjoying his role as a Gardener, building workplace experience, earning his own income and taking positive steps towards greater independence. His support network has recognised significant growth in his maturity, resilience and overall stability, while employment continues to provide opportunities to build confidence, routine and a stronger future.

Tallun's Story: Turning Passion into a Career

When Tallun joined BlueSky Mind Studio's NDIS Employment Services, the goal was not simply to find a job, but to explore future career possibilities and identify a pathway that aligned with personal interests, strengths and values.

Through the Customised Employment process, Tallun worked alongside Employment Coaches to explore career options, gain experience and build confidence.

During the discovery process, Tallun developed valuable workplace skills through volunteering and community involvement while exploring a range of potential career pathways. While these experiences provided valuable learning opportunities, it soon became clear that politics, advocacy and creating positive change within the community were areas of genuine passion and motivation.

With support from the NDIS Employment Services team, Tallun successfully applied to participate in the YMCA Youth Parliament program, where skills in public speaking, debating and leadership were developed while connecting with other young people passionate about community advocacy and local government.

As involvement in youth leadership and community advocacy grew, so did opportunities to connect with people working within the political sector. Through networking, work experience and ongoing support, Tallun gained valuable experience during the South Australian State Election and explored career pathways aligned with personal values and interests.

These experiences ultimately led to a paid position with the South Australian Greens, providing an exciting first step towards a long-term career in politics. With a paid role now secured and opportunities continuing to emerge, Tallun is building skills, experience and professional networks while pursuing a future in public service and community advocacy.

Image Left: Jett with members of the support team who worked together to help him achieve sustainable employment.

Image Right: Tallun participating in Youth Parliament activities that supported a pathway towards employment in the political sector.





Building Skills for work and life

Pivot Training provides foundation skills and vocational training that help people build confidence, develop skills and create pathways to employment, further education and community participation.

Pivot Training continued to create opportunities for people across South Australia and Western Australia to build skills, develop confidence and pursue pathways to employment, further education and community participation in the 2025-26 period.

A major focus throughout the year was expanding access to training and strengthening connections between learning, employment and community participation. Additional Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) training locations were established in Modbury, Clarkson and Kwinana, while larger facilities in Mandurah and Morley created additional capacity for learners to access training in welcoming and accessible environments close to home. These investments increased access to foundation skills training within local communities.

Across the year, Pivot Training delivered more than 174,000 hours of language, literacy, numeracy and digital skills training, supporting learners to build practical capabilities for everyday life, further study and employment. Continued demand for Digital Essentials training highlighted the importance of digital participation, helping learners gain the confidence and skills required to navigate an increasingly technology-driven world. In Western Australia, Pivot Training's SEE program was registered under the Work and Development Permit Scheme.

During the year, learners completed more than 384 hours of training, resolving 32 fines, and eliminating more than $26,000 of personal debt while building skills for work and life.

Vocational Education and Training for secondary school students continued to develop. Partnerships with independent and Catholic schools across South Australia expanded, creating more opportunities for young people to gain workplace skills and nationally recognised qualifications while completing their schooling. More than 231 students have enrolled in VET in Schools programs across more than 20 partner schools over the past two years, with 74 students successfully completing their qualification and many others continuing their studies. These programs help students explore careers, develop practical workplace skills and remain engaged in education.

Innovation remained an important part of service delivery throughout the year. The introduction of Mini Woolies training environments provided learners with hands-on opportunities to develop workplace and retail skills in realistic settings, while youth-focused STRIVE programs helped participants identify strengths, explore career pathways and build confidence for future opportunities.

Working alongside other Eighty9 services, Pivot Training continued to provide integrated support that helps learners overcome barriers, strengthen capability and progress towards employment, further education and community participation. Through this connected approach, learners were able to access support that responded to their individual goals while building pathways to long-term success.

In 2026-27, Pivot Training will focus on growing participation across established SEE locations, expanding youth-focused STRIVE programs, strengthening pathways between training and employment, and continuing to develop practical learning environments that support learner success.

$26,000+
Personal debt eliminated through the WA Work and Development Permit Scheme

231+
Secondary school students enrolled in VET programs

20+
Independent and Catholic school partnerships

19
Training locations across South Australia and Western Australia











Images: Pivot Training learners celebrate completing their courses with their trainers, SEE learners at Pivot Training Elizabeth undertake research for a Digital Media Club project, and school students helping to celebrate the launch of Mini Woolies Pivot Training.



Cameron's Story: From Routine to Opportunity

When Cameron joined Pivot Training's STRIVE program, he wanted to build confidence, make friends and create a routine. Along the way he gained all three and secured his first job.

Before joining Pivot Training, Cameron was spending most of his time at home and struggling to find the right pathway after leaving school. He joined the STRIVE program with simple goals: build confidence, make friends and establish a routine.

"Coming here has given me some purpose, something to do and look forward to"

Through group activities, classroom discussions and support from his trainers, Cameron gradually became more confident and connected with other learners.

"Coming here has helped me build friendships and confidence. Everyone in class is really nice. It's been great making those connections."

With support from Pivot Training and Status Employment Services, Cameron developed a resume, completed a work trial and secured a part-time role as a Kitchen Hand at a local café. He also accessed support through BlueSky Mind Studio and Geared for Success as part of his journey.

Today, Cameron is working, saving for a car and preparing for the future.

"I wanted to build confidence, get into a routine, and find work, and I've done all that. I've got a job now as a Kitchen Hand at Taste Revolution Café and feel much more confident talking to people."

Kasiah's Story: Building Skills, Creating Possibilities

After leaving school early, Kasiah joined Pivot Training to build her confidence, strengthen her skills and explore future career opportunities.

When Kasiah joined Pivot Training's Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) program, she was looking for a way forward. Referred by Status Employment Services, Kasiah joined Pivot Training to strengthen the literacy, numeracy and digital skills she felt she had missed after leaving school in Year 10.

Throughout the program, Kasiah successfully completed the FSK10219 Certificate I in Skills for Vocational Pathways while developing practical skills that supported both everyday life and future career opportunities. Building confidence with maths was a particularly important achievement for her.

"I am happy I got better at maths, it was a big goal of mine from the start."

Today, Kasiah is exploring future study opportunities and considering career pathways including diesel mechanics and primary school teaching. Most importantly, she now feels more confident in her abilities and optimistic about what comes next.

"I now have confidence in everyday lifetime maths. I can't wait to get a job and see where it takes me."



Image Left: Cameron secured part-time employment as a Kitchen Hand after building confidence, routine and work-ready skills through Pivot Training's STRIVE program..

Image Right: After completing the FSK10219 Certificate I in Skills for Vocational Pathways, Kasiah is preparing for further study and exploring future career pathways



Supporting Mental Wellbeing

Our Counselling Service provides evidence-informed mental health support that helps people strengthen wellbeing and build capacity for employment, education and community participation.

The growing connection between mental wellbeing and social and economic participation continued to drive demand for counselling services throughout 2025-26. As more people sought support, the team expanded its reach across South Australia and Western Australia, delivering more than 1,980 appointments to over 550 clients through both in-person and telehealth services.

Demand increased significantly over the year, particularly among participants accessing Inclusive Employment Australia and other Eighty9 services. This growth reflected the important role counselling plays in helping people address challenges that may impact their wellbeing, confidence and ability to pursue personal, education and employment goals.

Alongside service growth, a strong focus was placed on strengthening quality and participant outcomes. External clinical supervision was introduced across the counselling team, leadership structures were enhanced, and work commenced on strengthening clinical governance through audits, improved documentation practices, and the development of clearer service delivery frameworks. In addition, the Social Prescribing Project was implemented to support greater collaboration between services and improve participant experiences. These initiatives helped create a stronger foundation for consistent, high-quality support while improving connections between mental health and employment services.

Participant outcomes remained positive throughout the year. Outcome data showed reductions in reported depression, anxiety and stress, while strong rebooking rates demonstrated ongoing engagement with the service. Feedback from participants highlighted the value of having accessible, evidence-informed support that empowered them to build confidence, develop coping strategies and take positive steps towards their goals.

As demand for support continued to exceed capacity, the team expanded its workforce, improved counselling spaces and refined waitlist management processes. These investments have strengthened the service's ability to support more people while maintaining a focus on quality care and meaningful outcomes. In 2026-27, the team will continue this work by expanding workforce capacity, reducing wait times, embedding outcome measurement and strengthening clinical governance to improve access to timely, high-quality mental health support.

550
New individuals accessed counselling services

1,980+
1:1 in person or telehealth counselling sessions delivered

10
Average depression scores reduced by 10 points during counselling

100%
Increase in demand for counselling services

A Year of Connection, Growth and Impact

Through Geared for Success and Dress for Success Adelaide, ImpactEight creates welcoming and supportive spaces where people can build confidence, recognise their strengths and connect with opportunities that help them move towards employment and a future they can believe in.

2025–26 was a year of significant growth for ImpactEight. But when we look beyond the numbers, what stands out most is the growing connection between ImpactEight and the community we exist to serve.

More people discovered our services. More organisations connected their clients with us. More people contributed through donations, partnerships and their time. And as we listened to our community, we continued to evolve how we support people on their journey towards employment.

As awareness of ImpactEight continued to grow, so did the number of people accessing our services. New clients, appointments, workshops and employment outcomes all increased significantly throughout the year, creating more opportunities for people to build confidence, develop skills and prepare for employment.

That growth was made possible by a community that continues to invest in the success of others. Increased donations, stronger referral partnerships and greater community engagement enabled more people to access styling, career support, coaching and workshops through Geared for Success and Dress for Success Adelaide.

Listening and responding to community need remained a key focus throughout the year. New initiatives including the Discover Me, Believe in Me and Future Me workshop series were introduced, while the Elevate & Celebrate program for women continued to evolve. Existing services were refined based on feedback from clients and referral partners, ensuring support remained relevant, practical and responsive to the people accessing it.

The theme guiding the year was Elevate. Across every area of the service, the team challenged itself to look beyond established ways of working and continually ask how more value could be created for clients. This commitment to continuous improvement helped ensure every interaction had the potential to make a difference, helping people feel valued, seen and heard as they worked towards employment and greater independence.

As ImpactEight looks ahead, the focus will shift to Evolve by continuing to strengthen and refine services in response to community need. This includes expanding Geared for Success into Western Australia through a virtual service model, growing opportunities for women to engage through Styled for Confidence, and continuing to create welcoming spaces where people can build confidence, connect with others and take positive steps towards their future.

Images: ImpactEight's community of supporters in action, including fundraising events, corporate partnerships, volunteer activities and donation drives that help make our services possible











1,125
New clients accessed ImpactEight for the first time

2,067
Client appointments were delivered, an 88% increase on 2024/25

557
Clients reported securing employment following their appointment

239%
Increase in workshop engagement



Arshdeep's Story: Rebuilding Confidence

Following the breakdown of her marriage, Arshdeep made a conscious decision to focus on herself and the opportunities ahead.

Rather than allowing a challenging period in her life to define her future, she began exploring new possibilities and setting goals for the next chapter of her journey.

One of those goals was pursuing further education in Social Work. Drawing on her own experiences, Arshdeep developed a strong desire to support others navigating relationship breakdowns, family challenges and significant life changes. Before taking that next step, however, she wanted to rebuild her confidence and reconnect with a sense of self-belief.

Through Dress for Success Adelaide, Arshdeep participated in a styling appointment that became much more than selecting clothing. Working closely with her stylist, she explored colours, styles and outfit combinations that reflected her personality and helped her feel comfortable, authentic and confident. The experience provided a supportive environment where she could focus on herself and recognise how far she had already come.

By the end of the appointment, Arshdeep had not only developed a versatile wardrobe, but also renewed confidence in her future. Reflecting on the experience, she shared:

> *"I've regained my confidence and feel positive about my appearance. My stylist was amazing, she created a beautiful environment that I could express myself freely."*

As she prepares for university studies and a future career in Social Work, Arshdeep continues to build on the confidence she has regained and take positive steps towards a future centred on helping others and creating meaningful change in her community.

Naveed's Story: A New Chapter

After spending six years away from the workforce, returning to employment felt almost unimaginable for Naveed.

Following a diagnosis of fibromyalgia and the onset of chronic fatigue, he had spent years managing his health while questioning whether he would ever be able to work again. Over time, the extended break from employment eroded his confidence, leaving him uncertain about his abilities and apprehensive about returning to a professional environment.

When Naveed secured a position as an Administration Officer, it marked the beginning of an exciting new chapter. While the opportunity represented a significant achievement, it also brought practical challenges. Having been out of the workforce for several years, Naveed no longer had the professional clothing needed for his new role and faced the prospect of rebuilding a work wardrobe from scratch at a time when his family was already adjusting to significant change.

Through Geared for Success, Naveed received personalised styling support and a professional wardrobe that prepared him for his return to work. More than a week's worth of outfits were selected to help him feel confident, comfortable and ready to make a positive start in his new role. The support removed a financial barrier while helping restore the confidence that had been diminished during his time away from employment.

The impact was immediate. Rather than changing back into his casual clothes after the appointment, Naveed chose to wear one of his new outfits home, a simple but powerful reflection of how he felt about this next step in his journey.

What once felt almost impossible is now becoming reality. As Naveed returns to the workforce, he does so with renewed confidence, a sense of purpose and excitement about what lies ahead.



Participant Voices

Feedback, reflections and success stories from people who engaged with Eighty9 services during 2025-26.

"Got my life well on track and gave me a strong head start."

Ayub, TtW Participant

"I have been using my new learned skills in real situations, which gives me great satisfaction and the confidence to pursue my future ambitions, to further enhance my skills, by further studying more advanced courses. The people who trained me are passionate, genuine, diligent, professional teachers."

Leo, Pivot Training Learner

"I feel really encouraged, you get personalised help and just don't feel like a number it's very well tailored to client needs."

Mick, IEA Participant



"It has been 18 years since I have worn office attire and Geared for Success have gone above and beyond supporting me with outfits for my new job, which has boosted my self-confidence in a big way."

Ricky, Geared for Success Client

"I didn't have any goals when I started out with Status, it was right at the beginning of my recovery. It wasn't till about mid to late 2025 when I realised I could use my lived experience to support other people that I finally felt like I had a goal/ purpose in life, I have been supported very well towards this goal by Status."

Shane, IEA Participant



"Dress for Success has helped show me a new meaning to looking and feeling confident. They have showed me how to re-craft pre-loved pieces into outfits I feel comfortable to wear for my new job"

Heidi, Dress for Success Client

"Enjoyed coming to Pivot Training so much and felt more motivated and confident on a computer and have learnt so much. Our Tutors are excellent support at our Midland Branch and I have met so many other friendly students. I highly recommend this Digital learning course. My new skills I have attained will help me for future job prospects."

Tania, Pivot Training Learner

"Status is an extremely welcoming and supportive network, that thrives on encouraging and empowering people, to help them become ready for work.

As a Transgender youth, I felt overwhelming support and I was always treated with respect and care. Assistance was provided whenever I struggled with personal challenges, and I knew it was always a safe space for me go to, if I needed it."

Beatrix, TtW Participant

"Dress for Success has helped me feel stronger and more powerful, ready to take on the world and conquer my dreams when it comes to looking for work. Thank you Jas for the AMAZING session!"

Kelly, Dress for Success Client



"Status really helped me mentally physically and emotionally,they got me back on my feet and back into work after 8 years of being in a bad place mentally and actually like my job."

Brian, IEA Participant

"Rahayu has been wonderful in supporting me with getting a job and getting my licence. She is always happy to help with any questions I have with my job or with anything else."

Anna, TtW Participant

"A big shout out to Sherrilee. The passion she has for her work shines through in every aspect of the support she provides. As an employer, I truly appreciate the thoughtful balance she maintains between respecting our time and ensuring her clients receive the highest level of support."

Courtney, Employer

Partnerships and Affiliations

Acknowledgements

Throughout 2025-26, Eighty9 worked alongside government departments and local governments across South Australia and Western Australia to support individuals and communities. We acknowledge their collaboration in creating pathways to employment, training, wellbeing and community participation.

Government Departments

- Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
- Australian Government Department of Social Services
- Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
- Department of State Development, Skills SA
- Government of Western Australia Department of Education
- Government of Western Australia Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure
- Government of Western Australia Department of Justice
- NDIS Quality and Safeguards Comission

Local Government

Through events, referrals and community initiatives, local governments help us connect with communities across South Australia and Western Australia.

Memberships

Eighty9 maintains memberships with professional, industry and community organisations that support sector engagement, professional development, governance and continuous improvement.

- Australian Council for Adult Literacy
- Australian HR Institute
- Amplify Alliance Australia
- Australian Institute of Company Directors
- CPA Australia
- Disability Employment Australia
- Dress for Success
- Foodbank
- Supply Nation
- Velg Training



Strategic Partnerships

Strategic partnerships help us develop innovative programs, strengthen referral pathways and create better outcomes for participants and communities.

Colonnades

Colonnades partnered with Eighty9 to deliver the Colonnades Job Fair, bringing together employers, training providers and support services in an accessible community setting.
The event created opportunities for local job seekers to connect with employment pathways and industry contacts.

Flinders University

Through our partnership with Flinders University, Eighty9 hosted placements for counselling, social work and developmental education students during 2025-26. These placements provided students with practical industry experience while supporting participants across our employment, training and wellbeing services.

Foodbank SA

Pivot Training partners with Foodbank SA to provide work experience and work placement opportunities for learners undertaking nationally recognised retail qualifications and the Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) program. Through practical workplace experience, participants build industry skills, confidence and pathways to employment.

IronMerge

Status Employment Services partners with IronMerge to support participants on their journey from job willing to job ready. Through pre-employment preparation, onboarding support and direct industry connections, the partnership helps participants build confidence, strengthen work readiness and access employment opportunities in the mining, labour hire and resources sectors.

Local Jobs Program

Eighty9 partners with the Local Jobs Program to connect people with employment, training and community opportunities that respond to local workforce needs. Through our involvement on the Perth North and Perth South Taskforces, we collaborate with employers, training providers and community organisations to support workforce participation, strengthen referral pathways and create opportunities for people to achieve their employment goals

RAA

Partnership focus: Helping participants gain the driving skills and licences needed to access employment and training opportunities.

What it enables: By matching Eighty9's investment in driving lessons dollar-for-dollar, RAA increases access to practical driving support and helps participants overcome a common barrier to employment.





ImpactEight Partners

We thank the organisations that work alongside ImpactEight to ensure participants can access the support, resources and opportunities they need to achieve their goals.

CATHERINE HOUSE

GOGO Foundation

OARS Community Transitions

THE ZAHRA FOUNDATION

Tauondi Aboriginal College

Training Partnerships

Through our network of training and placement partners, learners gain access to industry experience, vocational pathways and practical opportunities that support their education and employment goals.

INFINITE INCLUSION CARE PTY LTD

Resthaven Incorporated

Fleurieu Milk Company

FOOD BANK

ACH GROUP Good Lives for Older People

Nazareth

Compass Catholic Community

St Paul's College





Community Connections

Our community connections play a vital role in supporting participants. We thank the organisations that work alongside us to provide specialist services, support and opportunities.

ALSWA

ANGLICARE SA
Together we change lives.

BLACK SWAN HEALTH LTD

CHRISTIE DOWNS Community House
Where people meet... good things happen!

EBENEZER ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

FOOD BANK

FOYER OXFORD

headspace

HEART & SOUL GROUP

Indigo Junction

Lifeline 13 11 14

MISSION AUSTRALIA

MULTICULTURAL SERVICES CENTRE

neami national
Improving Mental Health and Wellbeing

PARKERVILLE CHILDREN AND YOUTH CARE

Tauondi Aboriginal College

toward home

UNITING SA Together we can

Wadjak NORTHSIDE Aboriginal Corporation

YOUNG GUNS

Employment Partners

Supportive employers play a vital role in creating pathways to work for our participants. We recognise the organisations below for their ongoing commitment to supporting multiple participants into sustainable employment.

ALLSTAFF

BUNNINGS warehouse

civeo

Contraflow

Decking Perth
YOUR ONE STOP DECKING SHOP

DISMANTLE

GreenSteam Australia
PROVIDING GREEN SAFE SOLUTIONS

HUNGRY JACK'S

PEER SUPPORT JL42

Kmart

LINKFORCE

millennium

randstad

RECRUITCO

SEELEY INTERNATIONAL

SSW FRAMES
LIGHTWEIGHT STEEL FRAMING

SUBWAY

TR TASTE REVOLUTION

tsa

WorkPac

Eighty9 Offices

A year of significant growth saw Eighty9 expand to 48 offices across Adelaide and Perth, increasing access to employment, training and wellbeing services.

Western Australia

Armadale
Byford
Cannington*
Clarkson
Ellenbrook
Fremantle
Gosnells
Joondalup
Kwinana
Mandurah
Midland*
Mirrabooka*
Morley*
Osborne Park
Rockingham
Success



South Australia

Adelaide
Aldinga
Blair Athol
Elizabeth*
Gawler
Glenelg
Hindmarsh
Kilkenny
Mile End
Modbury
Mount Barker
Newton
Noarlunga*
Norwood
Oaklands Park
Old Reynella
Port Adelaide
Salisbury*
Seaford
Smithfield
Somerton Park
Stirling
Strathalbyn
Two Wells

Images: Offices at Mandurah, Somerton Park, and Noarlunga.





** Two or more Eighty9 locations operate in these suburbs.*

Eighty9

Where to find us

255 Port Road
Hindmarsh SA 5007

T: 08 8377 0101

E: enquiries@eighty9.org.au

eighty9.org.au

bsi
ISO 9001 Quality Management Systems CERTIFIED
ISO/IEC 27001 Information Security Management CERTIFIED
DESE Information Security Systems Scheme CERTIFIED
NSDS National Standards for Disability Services CERTIFIED