

Finding a path to work and independence in the Riverland

ANTHONY Blore is 20 years old and lives outside Renmark in South Australia's Riverland region. In recent years he's been 'in and out' of work, lacking the right connections to land a stable job. With limited work experience, no drivers licence and a baby on the way, sustainable employment was becoming increasingly elusive – particularly with opportunities scarce or out of reach.

When Anthony first connected with IntoJobs (delivered by MAS National), he wasn't exactly sure what sort of support to expect.

"I knew they could help with some licensing requirements, but I didn't really expect much more than that," he said.

IntoJobs consultant

Michelle Andrews set about building Anthony's employability. Through a mix of practical support and a bit of tough love, Michelle helped Anthony reset his approach and re-engage with his goals.

"I gave her a bit of strife in the beginning – missing appointments and not really putting in the effort," Anthony said.

"She gave me a ring, got on my case a bit and told me to pull my head in. We've been pretty good ever since then."

Anthony started by gaining his essential tickets and licences, including his forklift licence, Working at Heights, and Elevated Work Platform certifications. Getting work uniforms, boots and his driver's licence also helped open the door to new opportunities.

Michelle also introduced

Anthony to IntoJobs' Moving the Mob program, a six-day initiative that teaches practical employment skills and encourages First Nations job-seekers to explore their connection to Country and culture. The sessions enabled Anthony to focus more on the personal side of employment readiness, providing him with a clearer understanding of what to expect as a young Aboriginal man entering the workforce.

"It helped with the do's and don'ts in the workplace," Anthony said.

"You learn about your people, your history, your culture, and also what it's like working in different industries."

From there, things began to shift. Through IntoJobs' connections with local employers, Anthony secured work

at a nearby winery. Showing strong commitment from the outset, he was soon offered more stable hours – with the personal impact of employment reaching far beyond the job itself.

"It's been crazy," he said.

"I've moved out of my parents' place and we're getting ready to welcome a baby. It's pretty hectic but I'm glad we've finally got the ball rolling."

Now, Anthony is focused on maintaining steady work, building routine and preparing for life as a young father.

"I just want to keep working. I hope to keep the hours I'm getting, if not get a few more and find some kind of healthy balance – which I reckon is going to be a bit more of a challenge now," he said.



Renmark local Anthony working at a local winery. PHOTO: supplied

Improved digital capability the theme for SA's Small Business Week 2026

RIVERLAND business operators are invited to participate in an annual event offering numerous workshops, networking opportunities and the ability to gain important business knowledge in the digital business world.

Small Business Week, running from August 17 – 21, returns to South Australia with a particular focus on AI, digital capability and building resilience, with events focusing on succession planning, business

continuity and sustainability, among others.

Small Business Week is delivered by the Office for Small and Family Business, in partnership with the Small Business Commission SA.

Minister for Small and Family Business Nadia Clancy said "small businesses are navigating a range of economic pressures, workforce challenges and rapid changes in technology, as well as the day-to-day running of the business".

"Small Business Week provides the opportunity for businesses to hear from experts, connect with peers and focus on growth, building capability and resilience," Ms Clancy said.

"The week brings together a variety of expert insights, valuable connections and practical tools to help businesses embrace new opportunities."

The event is a key action under South Australia's Small Business Strategy 2023-

2030, which is helping small and family businesses access support, capability-building programs and connections they need to start, run and grow.

For those that are unable to attend in-person sessions, a suite of digital resources will be available.

The full Small Business Week 2026 program will be released soon and will be available through the website (www.business.sa.gov.au).

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