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Rural workers worse off

REGIONAL workers are at a serious training disadvantage compared with their metropolitan counterparts, new research shows.

The report, commissioned by registered training organisation Upskilled, finds 87 per cent of workers believe rural workers do not receive the same training and on-the-job opportunities as city staff. It also finds one in two rural employees feel that their relationship, health or general wellbeing suffers because of dissatisfaction and frustration in their career.

About 20 per cent of 18 to 24-year-olds plan to move to a major city because of better training and workplace opportunities.

Managing director Joel Gage says it is worrying to see that so many people consider moving to the city as their only solution.

“So many people in rural Australia feel that they are missing out when it comes to opportunities to grow in their profession and develop new skills,” he says.

“With our new initiative Upskilling Australia, we’ll be offering residents in 50 locations across Australia the chance to boost their career prospects and skill base by providing free professional training courses.” Courses are held in the classroom, workplace or online and most have government funding so are free to the business or employee.