

Sarina's still in the job market

By JENNIFER CHAPMAN

Fraser Coast job seekers have nothing to fear with Sarina Russo watching their backs.

That's the message from the employment services company, which is refusing to crumble despite losing more than half its Federal Government tenders in the recent overhaul of the Job Network.

Sarina Russo is determined to stay afloat, keep staff in jobs and help find employment for those in need – and the Fraser Coast is expected to benefit.

The company has been successful in keeping its Hervey Bay tender and has been allowed to open a new office in Maryborough.

Sarina Russo Job Access Hervey Bay manager Leah Dixon said the company would not give

up. She said it would look for openings within the recruitment market and consider developing brokering and training services.

Job Network tenders are reviewed by the government every three years.

This year however, all 100 agencies were reviewed instead of just the bottom 40.

The process was changed to reflect record lows of unemployment.

As a result agencies previously rated as four-and-a-half stars have been dumped in favour of two-and-a-half star agencies, causing mass confusion for companies.

Wesley Uniting Employment's Hervey Bay and Maryborough offices will be closed after the organisation lost its tenders. Twenty-seven people will lose their jobs.

HOW NETWORK WORKS

- Job Network agencies are paid a sign-up fee if included on the government's tender.
- If an agency finds a person a job and that person holds that position for a minimum of 13 weeks, the agency receives a payment. If the employee is in the job for another 13 weeks, another payment is received.
- The tender is to encourage agencies to find suitable, long-term employment for the unemployed.
- If the job seeker is highly disadvantaged, for example by a disability, the government will pay the agency a higher fee.



Fraser Coast job seekers will still have the services of Sarina Russo after it retained its Hervey Bay tender in a recent overhaul of employment agencies.