

Cheers in jobs figures

Casey economy pulls back from the brink

Employment | Dimity Barber

JOB opportunities in Casey are set to rise.

That's the confident prediction of leading employment services across the city.

Latest ABS statistics show unemployment in the southeast has dropped by almost 1 per cent to 6.8 per cent since last month.

And employment agencies say the results foreshadow a bright future.

Sarina Russo Job Access manager Susan Meyerink said the Narre Warren-based agency had a wide range of jobs on its books.

"We have between 10 and 20 new jobs on offer each day. It's a moving feast. I think the situation is becoming much more positive now," Ms Meyerink said. "We predicted the situation would be far worse than it actually became. We've been pleasantly surprised."

Manager Rob Spiers said DVJS Training and Placement Services Cranbourne, which places people with a disability in the workforce, was on a winning streak.

"We've placed about 15 people in

work in the last week. Things are definitely looking up," he said.

"The jobs seem to be out there. I think the market hit rock bottom but is now bouncing back. I believe the worst may already be over."

ECHO Australia manager Phil Badman was more cautious, but said he too was hopeful the situation would soon stabilise.

"We are by no means out of the woods yet," he said.

Federal Government-funded employment co-ordinator for the southeast, Keith Pimblett, said Canberra had identified the region as one of seven most disadvantaged in the country, but things were looking up for Casey job seekers.

"We are well on the way to seeing good growth in 2010," he said.

"The housing market in the region is bubbling along, creating employment.

"Manufacturing has been hit hard, but there are a number of government initiatives in the works. We are hopeful of good news in the local manufacturing industry soon."