



CAPABILITY STATEMENT

Your partner in workforce development



Overview

STRATEGIC FOCUS

We assist our clients to strategically develop and deliver impactful workforce participation and development solutions that achieve diversity, inclusion and capability uplift outcomes for their organisations.

CLIENT SECTORS

We have strong experience successfully working with all layers of government, private industry, peak bodies, not-for-profits, universities, vocation education and schools. We leverage these deeply established relationships to strategically support productive outcomes for our clients.

INDUSTRY EXPERTISE

Our industry areas of expertise include - civil, construction, defence, renewables, landscaping, conservation/land management, facilities management, manufacturing, early childhood education, tourism, hospitality, retail and administration.



About us



The Umbrella Collective is a South Australian (SA) based, female owned and operated national company that specialises in workforce development strategy and initiative delivery for clients across Australia.

We have a proven track record in assisting industry to unlock diverse pipelines of white and blue collar workers. We support clients to build legacy initiatives within local communities by empowering individuals to build economic and social prosperity through tailored education, training and employment pathways.

Our core mission is to bridge the gap between education and employment by providing comprehensive and impactful workforce participation and development solutions for our clients – instead of more talkfests, strategies and reports that sit on the shelf.

We are well known for achieving tangible outcomes in partnership with our clients. We are their one-stop-shop for strategy development, program co-design, securing funding, and strategic and operational delivery of initiatives.

Demonstrated Success

The Umbrella Collective has extensive experience in successfully designing and delivering multiple client projects across Australia. We can demonstrate long term success in strategic development and operational delivery of projects that build diverse pipelines of talent.

This includes women, First Nations Peoples, migrants, unemployed and under-employed people, young people disengaged from education or involved with youth justice, and people connected to the justice system.

Recent programs delivered by The Umbrella Collective include:

- ❑ Migrant Renewables Program
- ❑ Regional Women Program
- ❑ Women in Civil Program
- ❑ Aboriginal Youth Pathways to Employment Program
- ❑ Civil Taster Program
- ❑ Early Childhood Education and Care Program

For more information and case studies, please visit our website.



Our Leadership Team

The Umbrella Collective is led by Emma Sckrabei and Jess Cronin, experts in delivering people-focused outcomes across government, private, education, and not-for-profit sectors.

Their combined expertise spans workforce participation, stakeholder engagement, training, program management, and funding. They are supported by a skilled team with strong backgrounds in program delivery and participant support.

Under their leadership, The Umbrella Collective brings a powerful combination of strategic insight, lived experience, and practical capability to help clients achieve social impact, workforce transformation, and inclusive growth.



Our Leadership Team



EMMA SCKRABEI

Managing Director

Emma is a distinguished leader with over 25 years of national leadership in workforce participation and development. She has a proven track record of designing and delivering inclusive employment strategies that drive real outcomes for individuals, communities, and organisations. She is known for her collaborative and innovative approach, working across government, industry, education and not-for-profit sectors.

Emma's leadership has been acknowledged through numerous awards, including ACT Woman of the Year (2019), multiple ACT Training Awards for Industry Collaboration, and the 2023 NAWIC National and ACT Crystal Vision Awards for advancing women in construction.

Her previous senior roles as Head of Community Training & Employment at Ginninderry and Manager of Training & Employment Initiatives at Renewal SA demonstrate her deep capability in delivering high-impact, community-led programs that connect people to meaningful economic opportunities.



JESS CRONIN

Director

Jess is an experienced education and engagement leader with over 20 years of expertise across higher and vocational education. She has delivered impactful strategies in recruitment, program design, alumni relations, and stakeholder engagement. She has a strong track record of leading high-performing teams and supporting participant success.

Prior to joining The Umbrella Collective, Jess held senior roles at the Australian National University, the University of Canberra, and the Poplars Innovation Precinct. She is deeply connected across government, industry, education, and community sectors.

Beyond her professional achievements, Jess is deeply passionate about community service. She serves on the boards of the Adelaide Fringe Foundation and Rainbow Families Australia, and co-chairs both The Pinnacle Foundation's SA Committee and Rainbow Families South Australia.

Our Clients

The Umbrella Collective has built a loyal base of clients including:

- Lendlease ACT and NSW
- Acciona
- CPB
- Icon Construction
- Clubs ACT
- Fulton Hogan
- Civil Contractors Federation SA/ACT
- Australian Flexible Pavements Association SA/WA
- Woden Contractors
- Master Builders ACT
- Neoen
- Building Women
- Commercial Retail Group
- Programmed
- ACT Government
- Aboriginal Building Civil and Construction Academy
- Office for Women SA
- Polars Development
- AECOM
- Canberra Institute of Technology
- The University of Adelaide
- Riverview Projects ACT

Our Clients



HOLLY WILCOX
 Chief Executive Officer
 Construction Industry Training Board

“CITB have worked strategically with Emma Skrabei from The Umbrella Collective across the past two years to develop our Diversity and Inclusion strategy to support the building and construction workforce. Emma’s expertise, dedication and collaboration with industry have been pivotal in driving forward initiatives that enhance workforce diversity and inclusion in South Australia.

The Umbrella Collective understands that providing access to education, robust support, and employment opportunities can transform the lives of individuals, families, and communities. Their commitment to initiatives that align with these pathways for social impact is evident in every project they undertake.”



HELEN COSGROVE
 Workforce Development and Industry
 Participation Manager
 ACCIONA

“I have worked on several projects with Emma, from The Umbrella Collective, over the past 12 months and have always been impressed with her quality of work and communication skills. Emma is highly committed to delivering great outcomes. She brainstorms ideas and solutions and looks for opportunities to create maximum impact and value. One of the things I value most about working with Emma is her passion and commitment to social impact and making a real difference.”

Our Clients



GREGA VRETTIS

Associate Director - Business Development
Professional and Continuing Education,
The University of Adelaide

“The Umbrella Collective have proven to be a strong and collaborative partner of The University of Adelaide’s Professional and Continuing Education team. Jess and Emma have a talent for connecting the right stakeholders to co-create and deliver impactful workforce solutions for clients.

They are not afraid to bring in other partners to develop the best solution for their client – a rare attribute in today’s competitive market. By putting their clients’ needs first, they create a safe space for collaboration which facilitates enhanced results. They are authentic in their motivations and an easy partner to work with.”



VINCE BALL

Former Executive Director
ACT Regional Building and Construction
Industry Training Council Inc

“I have worked collaboratively with Emma on a wide range of building and construction training, education, employment and mentoring initiatives over the past 9 years.

Emma’s vision in anticipating appropriate training and employment for a wide range of industry stakeholders has been exemplary, particularly in championing the construction industry to disadvantaged and gender diverse students. This has been widely recognised by the construction industry for her dedication. Emma has a strong track record of success, including the development and delivery of Ginninderry SPARK programs, women in civil programs, Lendlease Construction women’s programs and the Woden Contractors civil construction program for Indigenous former prisoners.

Emma is not only an excellent champion for her wide range of programs but also in the additional role she has taken on promoting gender diversity through her engagement with the National Association of Women in construction. Her dedication has been widely recognised by the construction industry.”

Our Clients



BEN HELMERS
Managing Director
Wodens

“We have worked with Emma and the Umbrella Collective on multiple projects. On all occasions Emma and the team have exceeded our expectations.

Most recently, the Umbrella Collective has led the development of a new training and employment program for our Monaro Highway Project. The initiative involves the Wodens team, AMC, St Vincent De Paul and Government stakeholders and will provide a great opportunity to enhance the lives of many people who have spent time in correctional services.

The Umbrella Collective truly care about people and achieving ideal outcomes for the community. I would not hesitate to recommend the Umbrella Collective to any other organisations.”



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Executive Manager - Advocacy &
Member Services
Master Builders Association Queensland

“I have worked with Emma from the Umbrella Collective for more than 5 years. Emma is a problem solver with a great understanding of the education and community sectors.

Her ability to contribute positively to solving societal problems while operating in a commercial environment is unique and valuable. Emma is a positive, passionate, and people focused addition to any organisation or project team.”



CONTACT US

Emma Sckrabei - Managing Director

emma@theumbrellacollective.com.au

0402 973 233

Jess Cronin – Director

jess@theumbrellacollective.com.au

0467 794 686