



Centrelink hub to use local tech skills

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Jobs

CENTRELINK is doing its bit to help stem the skills exodus from Adelaide by announcing plans for an IT hub that will also help it out of a talent shortage in Canberra.

The move would create 100 Adelaide jobs and take in local university graduates, Human Services Minister Joe Hockey said.

“The hub will be established to overcome some of the difficulties faced by Centrelink in recruiting and retaining IT staff and graduates in Canberra,” Mr Hockey said.

Skills being sought included programming and business intelligence expertise, a spokeswoman for Mr Hockey said.

The hub would be formed around the existing base of Centrelink’s Systems Testing Centre and User Assurance Centre that do work including usability testing for public websites operated by the department and its agencies, she said.

Future work done at the centre could include systems designed to work with the planned government services access card.

About 150 people work in Centrelink’s Adelaide IT operations on a full-time basis, with total headcount recently expanding to 240, she said.

Adelaide’s universities and the quality of the IT programs they offered had won the centre, Mr Hockey said.

Several IT-related functions would be moved to Adelaide next year to help seed

the centre, which would then be built up with IT graduates from Flinders University, Adelaide University, and the University of South Australia.

“The new hub will encourage graduates to stay and work in Adelaide, meaning South Australia is able to retain skills locally,” Mr Hockey said.

The centres would concentrate on adopting local talent, and would not actively recruit outside South Australia.

“We want to use the core that we already have and to use the local people,” the spokeswoman said.

Retaining skills in South Australia has long been a hot issue in the state, with many local graduates migrating east to seek bigger salaries and more opportunity.