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00:00:01,125 --> 00:00:04,525

With the Australian economy unable to fill hundreds of thousands of

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jobs, a new report has highlighted a huge talent pool not being

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harnessed.

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SBS finance editor has been following developments, Ricardo Gonçalves

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joins us now with more.

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So Ricardo, the disability sector is in the focus here.

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Janice, now this report comes ahead of tomorrow's official employment data.

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There are two point 1 million people of working age in Australia with

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a disability, but less than half of them are employed.

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The report reveals that 65% of HR professionals and senior

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managers are unsure how or where to access this untapped labor resource.

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Laura Santamaria hopes one day to have a job

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she loves - perhaps in horticulture or floristry.

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Just something that I can work, part-time or full-time, and be stable

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and being in a place that's supportive.

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But she's had trouble finding work in the past.

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She has a learning disability and says, employers carry negative

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attitudes about employing people with a disability.

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It's been hard.

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You might not hear back from anyone and then you're set back to the start again

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Laura is a paid trainee at Jigsaw, a disability employment agency

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After the traineeship, she'll transition into work elsewhere.

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With industries across the economy, struggling to fill job vacancies,

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the organisation's CEO says, people with a disability can play a role in

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solving the issue.

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So this is a great time to access that talent pool that's

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within our country incredibly, skilled people that should be working in

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mainstream organisations. So absolutely the perfect time. But new

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research shows there's a long way to go in creating inclusive

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workplaces. The report of over 500 middle managers and HR workers

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revealed, that 41 percent of them had never

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hired a person with a disability. Of those that had, 42 percent

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felt their recruits were not job-ready.

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While 35 percent expressed a concern about their organisation's ability

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to on board and support them.

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Paul Brown says matching the right job to the right applicant is key

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Ongoing support is even more important.

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So making sure that the organisations like Jigsaw are there to support

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mainstream companies to ensure the retention of that role is really positive.

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Australia's new Social Services Minister says, improving Australia's

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rate of employment for people with a disability is a top priority.

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This is good for business.

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People with a disability have so many skills and experiences that

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can really add to a business.

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She hopes a meeting with the disability sector in the lead-up to

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September's Jobs Summit can help

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implement positive change.