

MEDIA RELEASE

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Australian Employment Champion Announced: She'll Now Learn from Global Experts

An Aboriginal woman who spends her days identifying ways to get her fellow Australians into work has won a one-of-its-kind grant to meet with global employment leaders.

Triscilla Holborow, CEO of REFAP (Real Employment for Aboriginal People), based in Karratha WA, was announced as the winner of the 2016 NESAs Employment Discovery Grant at a gala dinner in Melbourne last night.

NESA (National Employment Services Association) is the peak body for the Australian employment and related services industry, and the NESAs Employment Discovery Grant is supported by industry partner, Kinetic Super.

As part of the Grant, Triscilla will experience a six-day European career development trip that includes attendance at the invitation-only 2017 OECD LEED Forum on Partnerships and Local Development in Prague.

Being CEO of a company that has created more than 700 employment opportunities for Aboriginal people living in remote communities is a far cry from starting work as an Apprentice Plumber aged 15. Triscilla, a Yarraburra woman, has always had energy and foresight. She worked in the mines from 1992 to 2000, becoming Hamersley Iron's first female Aboriginal operator. Triscilla then worked in Sydney for a couple of years before Ngarda Civil & Mining coaxed her back to the Pilbara to become their Risk Management and Training Coordinator. This foundation in the mining industry led to Triscilla starting REFAP six years ago. REFAP specialises in labour hire, postal and courier services and in cleaning and maintaining processing plants for WA's mining corporations.

She now hopes that the information she'll collect at the OECD LEED Forum about the ways in which other countries around the world address unemployment in their indigenous populations will further improve employment rates in Australia.

Triscilla was named ahead of three other employment industry leaders who had been short-listed from the approximately 20,000 people who work in employment and related services across Australia.

The 2017 OECD LEED forum will be attended by more than 300 of the world's employment and economic development experts. Triscilla will attend as the guest of NESAs CEO, Sally Sinclair.

"This Grant is a wonderful opportunity for Triscilla to discuss key employment issues with leaders from around the world, and highlights the quality of professionals in our industry," Ms Sinclair said.

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