



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Inspiring achievers honoured in national award nomination

“Our Achiever of the Year Award highlights not just hard work and admirable resilience, but also making the most of the supports offered by employment services providers,” said NESA CEO Sally Sinclair.

The Awards for Excellence are offered each year by the National Employment Services Association (NESA) for outstanding performance and achievement within the employment services sector. The **Achiever the Year Award** goes to someone who has shown single-minded determination in overcoming considerable hurdles to turn their life around and move into stable employment.

This year’s finalists are:

Dubbo’s **Donna Hay**, nominated by Interact People Solutions

Donna has had the strength to be able to overcome anxiety, isolation and lack of self-esteem to successfully undertake a Cert III and move into permanent full time employment. The last five years have been tough, but Donna’s resilience and positive attitude have allowed her to turn her life around. *“My future looks bright. I will continue to strive to improve myself because that’s who I am.”*

Launceston’s **Josephine Willcox**, nominated by My Pathway

Already under pressure to survive after leaving home at 16, a redundancy and lack of support network undermined Josie’s self-esteem and motivation to work. But with jobactive support from My Pathway and Whitelion mentoring, Josie overcame her barriers and completely transformed her life to secure employment and stability for her young family. She is now a Workforce Development Consultant, helping others to realise their career potential, just as she did. *“I know that anything can be achieved; I know all I needed was at least one person to believe in me.”*

Rockingham’s **Krystal Johnson-Pinner**, nominated by atWork Australia

Krystal’s life began in instability and lack of support, homelessness and interrupted schooling. She was on the wrong path, but had the resilience and drive to seek help from atWork. Krystal worked hard to overcome significant personal barriers, and successfully completed a PaTH program which has led to full employment. *“I am no longer wondering each day if I will live to see another, I can now see a future for myself and others in my life.”*

The winner of the **Achiever the Year Award** will be announced at the NESA National Conference, to be held in Brisbane on the 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> of August, 2018.

The National Employment Services Association Achiever of the Year Award is sponsored by the Australian Government Department of Jobs and Small Business.

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