



MEDIA RELEASE

18 July 2018

Outstanding service recognised in national award nominations

“Employment consultants are ‘where the rubber hits the road’,” said NESa CEO Sally Sinclair. “These are the people who are making the employment services system work, with their tireless efforts and commitment to their job seekers. It is a real pleasure to recognise their dedication and service through the Employment Consultant of the Year Award.”

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 **Employment Consultant of the Year** Award goes to professionals who work to find jobs for disadvantaged Australians across all employment services programmes.

This year’s finalists are:

Kiama’s **Deirdre Hindmarsh**, nominated by Sureway Employment and Training

Deirdre has a rich life experience, with a range of administrative and development roles in the Arts, city councils and local Indigenous organisations. Already experienced with Indigenous employment when Job Network was created in 1998, Deirdre jumped at the chance and has worked in employment services ever since. Recently Sureway presented Deirdre with a Certificate of Excellence to acknowledge her achievement in maintaining a five star rating for almost all of the jobactive contract.

Mayfield’s **James Alexander**, nominated by Castle Personnel

James is successful in his role because of his drive and commitment to building strong relationships with participants, their families and employers. He delivers a high level of service and always represents Castle in a professional manner. James is able to get outcomes with the most difficult of participants because of his patience and natural ability to treat everyone with the utmost respect. James is continuously striving for improvement and is a mentor to many staff members.

Lilydale’s **Sara Chehade**, nominated by Salvation Army Employment Plus

Sara is a tenacious, diligent individual who displays considerable initiative. She is willing to truly think laterally where necessary, to see projects through to a successful conclusion. She consistently puts in hard work required to get disadvantaged people into jobs, and manages the ongoing challenges of her considerable caseload with intelligence, consideration and the utmost professionalism.

The winner of the **Employment Consultant of the Year Award** will be announced at the NESa National Conference, to be held in Brisbane on the 8th-9th of August, 2018.

...ends/