



MEDIA RELEASE

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Collaborative successes honoured in national award nomination

“Complex problems require innovative solutions,” said NESA CEO Sally Sinclair. “The purpose-built solutions for complex barriers to employment recognised by the Excellence in Collaboration Award are examples of how forward-thinking organisations can combine their expertise to create powerful outcomes for job seekers and employers.”

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 **Excellence in Collaboration Award** recognises organisations who demonstrate innovation and excellence in delivering outcomes for job seekers, community organisations and employers.

This year’s finalists are:

Cats Match program, Geelong, nominated by Matchworks and the Geelong Cats Football Club

The Cats Match program involves more than 40 young Geelong job seekers from both jobactive and Disability Employment Services in a 10-week program to develop employability skills, improve job search techniques, motivation and self-esteem, and maintain and improve physical and mental health and wellbeing. Several Geelong Cats staff and players are involved in the program, including Jed Bews, Jordan Cunico and Zach Guthrie, who take the health and wellness sessions.

National Workforce Network, Narre Warren, nominated by MatchWorks, Workskil, Global Skills, QITE and Maxima

National Workforce Network (NWN) is an alliance of five jobactive employment service providers who are committed to collaborating on delivering tailored recruitment services to employers. This collaboration results in a coordinated approach to providing job seekers with more job opportunities, and employers with a greater candidate pool. After just three years of operation, NWN is regularly dealing with 600 vacancies annually across more than 80 participating employers.

Sodexo, South Metropolitan TAFE and atWork Australia, Mount Hawthorn, nominated by atWork Australia

The Hospitality VTEC Program targets Indigenous candidates with a non-working background, a background of generational unemployment, people with a past criminal history and people who are not physically or mentally prepared for the work place. The program offers a focus on health, fitness and wellbeing, and has proven to be a life-changing experience, and is an excellent example of collaboration between employment services providers, RTOs and employers.

The winner of the **Excellence in Collaboration Award** will be announced at the NESA National Conference, to be held in Brisbane on the 8th-9th of August, 2018.

The National Employment Services Association Excellence in Collaboration Award is sponsored by Sunsuper.

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