



MEDIA RELEASE

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Imagination in Indigenous Cultural Training and Employment

PeoplePlus' Team Maroubra are the 2018 National Employment Services Association (NESA) Innovation in Indigenous Employment award winners. Team Maroubra join 5 other people and organisations honoured in the NESA Awards for Excellence ceremony held last night at the Brisbane Hilton, as part of NESA's 2018 National Conference.

Team Maroubra have been involved in a unique project to improve the cultural awareness of young Indigenous men, while providing them with essential skills to pursue a maritime career. In cooperation with Tribal Warrior – a not-for-profit Aboriginal Corporation that aims to strengthen traditional cultural understanding and to develop social and economic security for Indigenous Australians – the Team organised for 10 young Indigenous men to sail from Sydney to Cairns.

The young men completed a Cert I in Maritime Operations prior to departure, gained invaluable first-hand experience while aboard, and upon their return to Sydney, began working towards their Cert II.

The first phase of the project was the collaboration between PeoplePlus and Tribal Warrior as transport, housing and other organisational hurdles had to be overcome, with the young men directly involved in all stages of the project.

And the results speak for themselves. Three of the participants now work for All Occasions Cruises in Sydney, and three more are in the final stages of interviewing with the Sydney Port Authority. The blend of hands-on maritime training with cultural awareness development in an Indigenous-run environment has proven to be a motivating combination, and true to its name, Team Maroubra (an Aboriginal word meaning "like thunder") have had a powerful effect on the lives of the young men involved.

"It is very encouraging to see such imaginative projects being launched and run by Employment Services providers in direct partnership with Indigenous corporations such as Tribal Warrior," said NESA CEO Sally Sinclair. "PeoplePlus Team Maroubra have changed the lives of these young men and are a fine example of how imaginative collaboration can lead to new opportunities for Indigenous job seekers. Well done, and well deserved."

The NESA Innovation in Indigenous Employment Award is proudly supported by the Department of Jobs and Small Business.

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