



MEDIA RELEASE

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Innovative Indigenous employment programmes honoured in national award nomination

“Local, community-oriented collaborations are the way forward to improve Indigenous employment outcomes,” said NESA CEO Sally Sinclair. “The finalists for this year’s Innovation in Indigenous Employment Award have all shown outstanding organisation, foresight and stakeholder management.”

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 **Innovation in Indigenous Employment** Award goes to employment services professionals and organisations who find work for Indigenous Australians.

This year’s finalists are:

Kalgoorlie & Bunbury Skill Hire in association with **Wirrpanda Foundation**, nominated by Skill Hire

Skill Hire assist Wirrpanda Foundation & employers in finding suitable Indigenous candidates and assist job seekers throughout the whole employment pathway. Two staff members travel around an employment service region the size of Tasmania with no public transport: a major barrier faced by many Indigenous job seekers in remote communities. Having a passionate and innovative team that travel to these remote communities ensures that Skill Hire can offer Indigenous job seekers every chance of gaining sustainable long term employment.

Team Maroubra, nominated by PeoplePlus

PeoplePlus Australia has been working with Tribal Warrior and Babana Aboriginal Men’s Group to coordinate getting 10 young men to complete a Cert I and Cert II in Maritime Operations. Three of the young men have already begun full time work with All Occasions Cruises, three more are to be placed by the Sydney Port Authority, and PeoplePlus is confident that all ten will achieve full time employment once qualified.

Indigenous Civil Construction Program, Wagga Wagga, nominated by Sureway Employment and Training

The Civil Construction and Plant Operation Project provides industry-specific assistance to connect Indigenous job seekers with local employment opportunities in civil construction and plant operation. The Project has identified 20 employment and apprenticeship opportunities with construction projects across regional Victoria and NSW, and supported candidates with a customised, project-based Certificate III Civil Construction and Plant Operation course. This commitment to collaboration has resulted in the partnered implementation of a project with employment outcomes that benefit participants, employers and the community.

The winner of the **Innovation in Indigenous Employment 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 Innovation in Indigenous Employment Award** is sponsored by the Australian Government Department of Jobs and Small Business.

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