

NESA AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE 2023

EMPLOYMENT CONSULTANT OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

HAFEZ ZAMANI

Hafez Zamani is a Business Development Manager with APM, who conviction in the life-changing autonomy and sense of purpose through employment is rooted in his own experiences as refugee and his own early struggle to find meaningful employment when he made Australia his home. With a remarkable 20 years in employment services behind him, Hafez has earned high trust from employers, with many relying on him exclusively for recruitment needs and working with him to create alternative pathways into jobs for significantly disadvantaged participants. Hafez's dedication has been acknowledged through a State Government Award for Service Excellence for Refugee and Migrants and his impressive record of success gained him Employee of the Year at APM. Hafez has changed the lives of over 400 participants through employment during the past year.

AMANDA BAKER

Amanda Baker is a Recruitment Partner in the CoAct - Youth Projects Werribee Southern Regional, where her proactive approach to professional development and self-improvement, together with her capacity to innovate, have made her a vital asset for both job seekers and employers. Her personalised strategies for young participants are transformative and she is regarded as a beacon of reliability and expertise by her colleagues. In 2022-2023, Amanda has delivered outstanding performance, placing 69 young people into employment, with most being very long-term unemployed. Amanda's exceptional contributions were nationally recognized, winning her the 2023 CoAct Steve Lawrence Award for Employment Consultant of the Year for the Transition to Work program.

KIRSTY CAMPBELL

Kirsty Campbell is a Mobile Employment Consultant with IntoJobs in Mackay Region. Her lived experience of unemployment inspired her to apply for a job as an employment consultant. As proud First Nations woman, Kirsty believed she could make a difference and is now the highest-performing employment consultant at IntoJobs, with around 40% of her placements being for First Nations job seekers. Kirsty's passion for supporting participants to reach their life and work goals translates to practical, on-the-ground measures such as meeting them in community, taking them to purchase work clothes, finding suitable housing, and, sometimes, if they are feeling unsure, sitting right alongside them in an interview. Kirsty is respected by employers for her "can do" approach and is the first port of call for many when they are looking for staff. She was also co-creator of the 'Moving the Mob' program which has been embraced by participants and achieved a 100% attendance rate. Kirsty's participants value her lived experience and see Kirsty as a trusted, reliable, and respected member of the Mackay community.