

MEDIA RELEASE

October 10, 2013

Mine training partnership delivers real outcomes for Indigenous jobseekers

A GROUP of Western Australian Indigenous jobseekers are benefiting from a new resource industry training partnership that is fast-tracking their qualifications and employment outcomes in the state's mining sector.

Under the program delivered by the skills arm of Australia's national resource industry employer group, AMMA Skills Connect, and alliance partner Access Working Careers, 12 Indigenous candidates have this week commenced fully-funded training in mine site security.

Access Working Careers director Peter Naughton says the four-week program ensures the participants will benefit from the state's thriving resource sector.

"It is vital that Western Australia's Indigenous communities continue to have access to the social and economic opportunities that the resource industry creates," says Naughton.

"This training program provides Indigenous jobseekers with a Certificate II in Security Operations and the ability to transition into meaningful employment in one of the resource industry's most important service sectors.

"Our 12 participants completed the pre-employment assessments with flying colours and are excited about their future careers in the resource industry and contributing to significant nation-building projects."

Following completion of the program, participants will have the opportunity to gain employment with Tri-Shield Services, an Indigenous Australian company providing security services to the West Australian resource sector.

AMMA Skills Connect project director Tara Diamond says the past decade of strong investment has seen the resource industry become one of the largest employers of Indigenous people.

"Many Western Australian resource employers already run their own successful Indigenous training and employment programs, demonstrating the important contribution our industry makes to real job outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people," says Diamond.

"Facilitating job outcomes for local Indigenous Australians is critical to fulfilling our industry's community responsibilities, but also helps mining employers tackle complex skills challenges.

"Recognising Indigenous Australians as an important source of skills and labour, the AWC and AMMA Skills Connect have teamed up to provide the pathways for more Indigenous Australians to become valuable members of the resource industry workforce.

"The first group of 12 Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander participants will gain skills in security operations and learn about the unique work environments, employer expectations and how to carve out long and successful careers within the state's \$142bn resource industry."

AMMA Skills Connect and Access Working Careers are both backed by separate Australian Government funding grants focused on workforce development and Indigenous participation.

MEDIA: Interviews with Indigenous training participants can be arranged subject to availability. Contact Kylie Sully on 0409 781 580 or kylie.sully@amma.org.au.