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Media release:

Enhancing Indigenous employment opportunities in the Mid West

The 2010-2012 Bayalgu Indigenous Pre-Employment Training Program is officially underway after a signing ceremony took place at MMG's Geraldton Office today.

Local business partners of the Program gathered to sign the 2010-2012 Bayalgu Agreement, which was established in 2006 with the support from six program partners. In 2010 the Program has now grown to boast 13 government, non-government and industry program partner organisations.

MMG Golden Grove General Manager, Nick Mosenthal, says the Bayalgu Training Program is enhancing employment opportunities for Indigenous people in the Mid West region, and to date has been extremely successful.

"Since 2006, this 10-week course has been providing 18-25 year-old Indigenous Australians with entry-level skills into the resources, civil construction and associated service industries," said Mr Mosenthal.

"The Program has presented work readiness and employment transition opportunities to 51 Mid West youth, with approximately 90% of trainees who complete the Program securing employment."

In 2010-2012, the Program has been expanded to include a full-time Indigenous mentor, Kingsley Bartlett to assist participants through the program.

"Our Indigenous mentor Kingsley is essential to the continual improvement of the program and to assist participants through the transition from training to employment."

After completing the course participants receive a Certificate II in Resource and Infrastructure, forklift and elevated work platform licences, but more importantly are supported to secure and retain long-term employment for up to 18 months following completion of the training course.

The comprehensive 2010-2012 program partnership agreement that frames the course delivery is supported by: MMG Golden Grove; Central Earth Moving; TME Group; WesTrac; Durack Institute of Technology; Geraldton Senior College; Clontarf Foundation Mid West Football Academy; Main Roads Western Australia; Mission Australia; Skill Hire; Salvation Army Employment Plus; Giacci; and the Geraldton Port Authority.

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