

May 16 2008

Kwinana gets HLEP

Kwinana industry is backing a plan by national recruitment company IPA to help indigenous youth prepare for all facets of employment.

Called IHLEP (the Indigenous Horticultural and Landscaping pre-Employment Program), the program aims to provide training, education, coaching and mentoring to provide ongoing employment.

This initiative focuses indigenous Australians in the Kwinana and surrounding areas who are seeking full or part time work in the Horticultural and Agricultural industries, or through related industries

“Due to a 33 year low in unemployment, Australia is still battling a skills shortage in all industries around Australia with particular shortages being experienced in the West,” said IPA Michelle Krueger.

“IHLEP aims to help both address these shortages as well as provide Indigenous youth with job skills training.”

Developed with the Town of Kwinana, Kwinana Industries Council and IPA, the program will partner closely with industry and local businesses to facilitate the transition into these available roles.

“KIC reckons this is an absolute winner,” said director Chris Oughton.

“Our member companies are keen to make it easier for local people to get local jobs and this program fits the bill.”

IPA co-ordinates the program, helping to kick-start 100 candidates into employment in the local Horticulture and Agriculture industry, with each candidate obtaining accredited training once completing the pre-employment course.

“The program is a proactive solution to the skills shortage,” said Ms Kreuger.

“Because it understands both the local and national markets, we are able to make sure all willing candidates have the potential to come out as job winners.”

Both the Town of Kwinana and the City of Cockburn have agreed to assisting to host these candidates in “on the job training” with the aim of providing ongoing employment, she said.

Managed in a 3 phase the IHLEP aims to:

- Attract up to 100 indigenous candidates
- Train, educate and provide on the job training

- Provide mentoring and coaching to each candidate

IPA is the only recruitment agency to run this program in the Kwinana area and have worked on other programs in Victoria and NSW integrating indigenous Australians into workplaces with great success.

For more information about IPA's IHLEP program or other incentives contact

- Michelle Krueger on 08 9463 1999 for further details about how you can get involved. Visit www.ipa.com.au
- Alan Gale, Communications and Marketing Co-ordinator Kwinana Industries Council, 9437 0163 0414 881 470 alan.gale@cciwa.com