

Media release

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Airservices and Woodside to provide Indigenous training

Airservices and Woodside have signed an agreement to provide new training opportunities for Indigenous Australians living in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

The announcement follows Airservices launch of its inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan last month which sets out a four year vision to promote opportunities for current and future Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff.

The Traineeship Hosting Agreement with Woodside will initially offer candidates the opportunity to complete a Certificate II in Public Safety (Fire Fighting and Emergency Operations) qualifying them to be trainee fire fighters in Airservices aviation rescue and fire fighting (ARFF) service.

Airservices ARFF service protects the community by offering a vital first response capability to airport emergencies at Australia's busiest airports.

Airservices Acting Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Clark, said that the successful ARFF recruits would initially be employed to service Broome and Karratha Airports.

"Air traffic in Western Australia, particularly in the far north west, has grown exponentially over the last five years," Mr Clark said.

"This has seen us re-establish air traffic control and aviation fire services at Broome and Karratha, and we are now also looking at providing services again in Port Hedland, which will provide additional job opportunities for those living in the region."

Airservices Reconciliation Action Plan is seeking to boost the number of Indigenous employees to at least three per cent of its workforce through a range of programs.

"This agreement will enhance opportunities for Indigenous Australians seeking an entry path into a career in aviation to become a fire fighter with one of the largest aviation fire services in the world."

Woodside Kimberley Vice President Niegel Grazia said that Woodside provides funding for a range of traineeships and apprenticeships under its Indigenous Employment and Training Strategy.

"Almost 100 Kimberley Indigenous people are now employed or undertaking training through this program, and Woodside is committed to providing more opportunities through initiatives such as this partnership with Airservices Australia," Mr Grazia said.

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