

## **CORRECTIONS FUTURES**

Nine Indigenous students graduated and received their Certificate II in Justice Services on Thursday 6 July 2017 after participating in a program facilitated by Regional Development Australia Far North (RDAFN).

The program was the result of discussions and actions over the course of a couple of years and was found to be key to addressing the ongoing need for trained and suitable employees for the Correctional Services Department.

Claire Wiseman, Chief Executive Officer said that the program has been very successful in filling a gap in the correctional services industry, "The program was run over 14 weeks and whilst 14 participants commenced the program, some were lucky enough to gain employment during the program. The Department for Correctional Services is one of Port Augusta's largest employers and there is an ongoing need for trained and suitable employees."

"Attendance for the program was exceptional and the skills and confidence that the participants have gained is a credit to the support and facilitated training provided by Correctional Services Officers and the quality time spent with the participants."

The qualification will lead to the next step of becoming a trainee correctional officer.

"The training program included a site tour and the open sessions allowed the participants to speak one on one with officers and current trainees about the formal application process to become a trainee. This was backed up with career service advice being provided by RDAFN's Career Development Centre." Ms Wiseman said.

The success of the program was partly due to the collaborative approach provided by RDAFN, Department for Correctional Services, Department of State Development and TAFE SA.

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