

25 September 2023

### **Empowering Jobseekers with Transition to Real Jobs**

Roper Gulf Regional Council is thrilled to announce the transition from its Community Development Program (CDP) to 'Real Jobs through Community Projects', a groundbreaking initiative designed to empower job seekers in the region.

This transition, which commenced on 01 July 2023, aims to establish, invest in, and implement subsidised part-time and casual positions across various divisions in local communities.

The primary focus of the program aligns with the key outcome areas of wellbeing, environment, infrastructure, and economic development, highlighted in Roper Gulf Regional Councils 2022-2027 Strategic plan.

Real Jobs, through Community Projects is aimed at empowering businesses and jobseekers alike by working collaboratively with the local businesses on the ground to provide meaningful employment and career opportunities.

The change from the CDP program to Real Jobs marks a significant milestone in the Council's commitment to creating sustainable employment opportunities that align with the values and aspirations of First Nations people.

Setting this program apart is the financial compensation of mentoring payments, enabling employers to support and train potential employees while receiving financial benefits.

Through this initiative, local businesses who employ CDP jobseekers will receive a 'Mentoring Payment' up to the value of \$15,000, contributing to the costs associated with capability development and support for new employees during the first 6 months of their employment.

By participating in this program, community businesses have a unique opportunity to invest in their own communities by providing real jobs to individuals seeking employment.

Marc Gardner, CEO of Roper Gulf Regional Council, expressed his excitement about the transition stating, "It's a win-win situation for community members and local businesses that fosters growth, community development, and economic prosperity".

"We aim to empower jobseekers and businesses across the region to take charge of their economic futures, ensuring greater autonomy and self-determination."

“By involving the community in the planning and execution of these projects, this program ensures that the voices and needs of everyone involved are heard and valued,” Mr Gardner said.

This investment in education and skill development ensures that individuals are equipped with the necessary tools and knowledge to succeed in their roles, setting them up for long-term success and sustainability.

By shifting away from the limitations and restrictions of the previous program, Real Jobs seeks to provide positions that are more meaningful, fulfilling, and contribute to the overall betterment of the community and all local businesses involved.

The transition from Roper Gulf Regional Council's CDP program to 'Real Jobs through Community Projects' is a testament to the council's commitment to empowering communities across the region and a dedication to education and skill development.

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**Attachment 1: Mataranka CDP Participants**



Pictured: CDP Participants from Mataranka and Jilkminggan