

VTEC class completes Roebourne course

PERTH, 26 March 2012: Fortescue Metals Group (Fortescue) is proud to announce 19 Aboriginal people from Roebourne have completed a six-week course with the company's Vocational Training and Employment Centre (VTEC).

Of the trainees, 95 per cent completed the course, which reflects the commitment of all participants as well as VTEC support strategies, which ensure trainees have the best possible chance of success.

The trainees will now embark on an additional two-week course that will earn them a Certificate II in Infrastructure and Resources Surface Extraction. The qualification will enable the trainees to become mobile plant operators and begin work at Fortescue's Solomon mine site in the Pilbara.

The group's completion of the course highlights the ongoing success of VTEC, a community-based program which was established in South Hedland in 2006 and Roebourne in September 2010 to provide training, employment and support to Aboriginal people.

While VTEC is in its early days in Roebourne, 53 graduates have already progressed to full time employment.

"We're proud of the team here today. We're looking forward to them completing the course and moving into full time employment with Fortescue and its contracting partners," said Fortescue Chief Executive Officer Nev Power, who presented the trainees with their certificates on Monday.

"The provision of training through VTEC, leading directly to full time jobs and ongoing support for participants is making a significant difference to local communities and playing a major role in ending Indigenous disparity."

Vince Catania MLA, Member for North West, also attended the graduation, and offered his congratulations to the trainees. He thanked

Fortescue for its ongoing commitment to Indigenous training and employment.

“Communities such as Roebourne are benefiting from the opportunities in the resources sector through participation in training courses like those offered by VTEC, which allows them to embark on full time employment,” Mr Catania said.

Since VTEC was established in 2006, it has provided training and support to more than 1000 Aboriginal people.

In March 2012, Aboriginal people comprised more than 10 per cent of Fortescue’s workforce. The company has awarded \$350 million in contracts to Aboriginal businesses across its operations and growth projects.

Image available on request.

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