

Record number of VTEC graduates celebrate five years with Fortescue



Fortescue
The New Force in Iron Ore

PERTH, 25 July 2014: A record number of 25 graduates of Fortescue's Port Hedland Vocational Training and Employment Centre (VTEC) will be among staff celebrating five years working with the company in 2014.

This year there are 268 Fortescue employees who will celebrate their fifth anniversary with Fortescue and 10 employees who have been with the company for ten years.

The 25 VTEC graduates make up the largest group from Fortescue's dedicated Aboriginal training program to celebrate the five-year milestone with the company.

Fortescue opened its first VTEC in 2006 and currently operates two facilities, in South Hedland and Roebourne. Through VTEC, Fortescue offers Aboriginal people a job and provides the training and support for graduates to succeed at those jobs.

Fortescue will honour all its long-serving employees at its annual Legends Dinners, with the first to be held in Perth on Friday night (25 July 2014). Chief Executive Officer Nev Power and Founder and Chairman Andrew Forrest, together with senior executives, will attend both celebrations.

Mr Power said he was proud of every single Fortescue employee who had reached the five-year milestone. "At Fortescue we pride ourselves on our family culture and the Legends Dinner is a fantastic example of that culture," Mr Power said. "To see a record number of VTEC graduates celebrating five years of working with Fortescue is testament to their hard work and commitment. It is also testament to Fortescue's long-standing belief that the best way to end Aboriginal disadvantage is by providing opportunity through employment and training. The success of VTEC can be measured by the 1100 Aboriginal people working at our operations and the 25 VTEC Legends here tonight."

Kerry O'Neil, a Port Hedland resident who works at the Cloudbreak mine, is one of the VTEC legends celebrating five years with Fortescue on Friday night.

"I signed up for VTEC because it was a great opportunity," Ms O'Neil said. "You didn't have to start with skills and at the end of it you were guaranteed a job. Now I'm earning good money, working with a good crew and on a good roster."

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