



Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs officiates Fortescue's VTEC graduation

Port Hedland, 8 June 2015: Fortescue Metals Group (ASX: FMG; Fortescue) today celebrated the graduation of another class of trainees from its Vocational Training and Employment Centre (VTEC), further cementing the company's ongoing commitment to ending Aboriginal disparity through opportunity.

The 19 graduates successfully completed the VTEC training program at Pilbara Institute's South Hedland and Roebourne campuses with on-the-job training provided at Fortescue's operational sites, where the graduates are bound for work and will continue to receive training, mentoring and development.

Fortescue Chairman, Andrew Forrest joined Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Nigel Scullion, to officiate at the ceremony and celebrate the graduates' achievement.

Mr Forrest said he took great pride in seeing another group of trainees graduate from the program and encouraged them to continue to open the doors to opportunity for themselves, their families and the wider community.

"Every VTEC graduation is a great example of how Fortescue is changing lives through training and employment and providing the holistic support to succeed in long term employment. The VTEC model is putting an end to training for training's sake and we're seeing real benefits flow onto the Aboriginal and wider Australian community," he said.

In addressing the graduates, Senator Scullion acknowledged the hard work and determination of the trainees and Fortescue.

"Training that leads to guaranteed employment sets both the employer and the job seeker up to succeed. The job seeker is equipped with the knowledge and skills to excel in their work because the training has been tailored to the employer's specific requirements," he said.

"This is the kind of program that the Australian Government is proud to support because it generates real outcomes for Indigenous people and our nation."

Fortescue's VTEC is part of a network of 28 other VTECs funded by the Australian Government which are collectively working towards the goal of placing over 5,000 people into employment by the end of 2015.



Image caption: VTEC graduates Skie Bellotti and Garth Ranger with Fortescue Chairman Andrew Forrest, Pilbara Institute Managing Director Marlene Boundy and Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs Nigel Scullion

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