



# Media Release

## Fortescue's VTEC trainees makeover local women's refuge

**South Hedland, 11 May 2016:** Participants of Fortescue Metals Group's (Fortescue) Vocational Training and Employment Centre (VTEC) program were recently given a unique opportunity to give back to their community by providing an upgrade to the outdoor area at Hedland Women's Refuge during their 10 week work readiness training.

The South Hedland VTEC team worked closely with staff from the Refuge to design and coordinate the upgrade, which included garden landscaping and installation of outdoor screens, blackboard panels, furniture and play equipment.

Vikki Batcheler, Acting Manager of Hedland Women's Refuge thanked Fortescue saying: "It has been an absolute honour to partner with Fortescue on this project, especially the VTEC trainees involved who have seen their hard work come to fruition. Our newly revamped outdoor area provides a sanctuary for clients, their children and staff to enjoy, while also increasing their safety and privacy."

"Being a not-for-profit organisation, our budget doesn't cover the costs of a project of this scale so we are extremely grateful to Fortescue for their in-kind donation and for wanting to make a difference to the lives of many vulnerable women and children."

Fortescue Group Manager Government and Community, Alexa Morcombe acknowledged the important role the Refuge plays in providing critical support services to victims of family and domestic violence in Port Hedland.

"This has been a great opportunity to further develop the skills and capabilities of our VTEC trainees, while helping an organisation that provides very important support to the Hedland community," Ms Morcombe said.

In 2015, Fortescue Chief Executive Officer, Nev Power became an accredited White Ribbon Ambassador, demonstrating Fortescue's leadership on the issue of family and domestic violence, not only in the workplace but also in the wider community.

The VTEC trainees have recently graduated from the program and are now working at Fortescue's Christmas Creek mine in the Pilbara, where they will continue to receive mentoring and support to help them succeed and thrive in the next phase of their careers.

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*High resolution images available on request*

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