



two ways :: one outcome

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Media Release

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Aboriginal Child Care Workers get Real Jobs and Training

Fourteen Aboriginal child care workers and nine babies from remote Yuendumu community in the new Central Desert Shire are off to Melbourne and Daylesford today for a week-long training program. Upon their return the former CDEP employees, many of whom have been working at the Yuendumu Child Care Centre for years, will receive real wages and conditions for the first time.

After soaking up inspiration on visits to three Victorian child care centres the workers plan to choose two things they will do differently at their own centre. They will plan for these changes and collect the resources they need to put their plan into action.

The workers will also get help to develop a web site about the Yuendumu Child Care Centre. Another first for the women and their children will be visits to the Melbourne Zoo and the Aquarium.

Central Desert Shire CEO, Rowan Foley, said he was proud to support the training program. "It's a great opportunity for our staff to experience new ideas and different ways of working with young children and to spread their own, very successful approach. The training does not only benefit the workers, it also helps with getting our youngsters ready for school and a better start in life."

Mr Foley said the Yuendumu Child Care Centre, widely regarded as a model for other Aboriginal communities, was also showing the way for Aboriginal employment in the Central Desert Shire. "We're about growing our own Aboriginal workforce and supporting our employees with meaningful training."

The 4500 residents of the 282,000 square kilometre Central Desert Shire are served by 232 staff, most of them based in regional communities. 159 are local Aboriginal people any of whom have "real jobs", backed by proper training, for the first time. The Central Desert Shire came into existence on 1 July 2008 and will elect its first Shire Council on 25 October.

Ends.

**For more information call Rowan Foley, CEO Central Desert Shire,
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