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13 Indigenous women graduate in the mining industry

At a graduation ceremony at Parliament House today 13 Indigenous women received qualifications that will lead to jobs in the mining industry.

They successfully completed a Remote Jobs and Communities training program - a joint initiative between the Australian Government, the Minerals Council of Australia, and the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education.

Women’s Policy Minister, Malarndirri McCarthy congratulated the 13 women who come from Darwin, Katherine, Jabiru and Alice Springs on their achievements.

“It is especially fantastic to congratulate these women during NAIDOC week celebrations,” she said.

“Many women often do not receive recognition for contributions outside of their families, which is why it is important that we recognise the efforts and achievements of these first Indigenous women graduates into the mining resources sector.

“Through their hard work and determination they have received a Certificate I in Resources and Infrastructure Operations, an OH&S White Card, and a Certificate of Completion-I Vec Life Skills.

"With over 70% of minerals industry operations in the Territory located in remote communities this initiative targets education and employment opportunities in the minerals industry for Aboriginal women in remote regions.

"This is a win-win situation for growing our own by maximising local employment opportunities close to community, and increasing the participation of remote communities in mainstream economic activities by building local capacity.

“I encourage other industry groups and sectors to take this approach to workforce development, and I am sure these 13 women will inspire all Territory women and future generations in their efforts to make the Territory community an outstanding place to be.”

Ms McCarthy added that many of the graduates had already been offered permanent employment close to their respective communities after graduation.

The Territory Government initially provided $362,000 to support the pre-employment program.

The Territory Government continues to support the Minerals Council of Australia NT and the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education, as the Indigenous RTO in this initiative.

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