



Artwork by Maureen Simpson

Awards recognise Indigenous employers of choice

Six leading employers successfully recruiting Indigenous Australians were recognised at the recent Northern Indigenous Employment (NIE) Awards.

Celebrated on Friday 25 October, the NIE awards are a premier business event hosted by the [NIE working group](#), a community partnership initiative formed in 2008.

Over 150 people attended this year's ceremony to hear Indigenous employment success stories from employers helping to increase Aboriginal employment and training outcomes in Melbourne's Northern region.

This year's NIE award recipients included **AFL Sportsready, The Royal Children's Hospital, Quit Victoria, Australian College of Optometry, Crown Casino and Bubup Wilam for Early Learning Aboriginal Child and Family Centre.**

For their outstanding achievements each business received a unique piece of artwork personally designed by students from the Indigenous Education Centre (IEC) Kangan Institute.

Ceremony guests were treated to an opening didgeridoo performance by Amos Roach, son of respected Aboriginal singer/songwriter Archie Roach.

Wurundjeri elder and traditional custodian, Margaret Gardiner offered a warm welcome to country and spoke of her passion for seeing Indigenous Australians, both young and old, better employed.

Ian Hamm, Director, Indigenous Economic Development, Department of Business and Innovation, honorary guest speaker, inspired and encouraged people to have high expectations of what is to come in the Indigenous employment space.

Since the first NIE Awards ceremony was held in 2009, twenty-seven employers have been recognised by the NIE working group for their successful Indigenous employment strategies.

To view past NIE award recipients or find out more about the NIE working group visit www.nie-group.com or contact Nicole Findlay on (03) 8329 8825.

