MEDIA RELEASE

24 January 2019

Traineeship Program relaunched to include 22 small Local Government Authorities

Linkwest, the Peak Body for Community Resource Centres (CRCs) and Neighbourhood Centres (NCs) in Western Australia, welcomes the relaunch of the traineeship program to support trainees in regional areas. For a number of years the traineeships provided under this program have been an important part of the CRC program as it enabled the network to build the capacity of local people in small towns across regional WA.

We are delighted to see the level of investment into regional WA trainees and note that the program has been opened up to 22 smaller LGAs in regional WA that do not have a CRC within their boundary. With a total investment of $2 million into the program we believe it creates opportunities over a greater area of WA. It is particularly welcome as it is seen as a way of keeping small regional towns viable as the trainees stay in rural towns and gain skills, qualifications and further employment opportunities.

“The traineeship program has been a real success story for Community Resource Centres,” says Linkwest Chair, and Manager of the Pingelly CRC, Lee Steel. “Since its introduction, over 500 trainees have benefited from the program, learning valuable skills which can put them on the path to fulfilling careers in their local towns and beyond.”

One such success story is past Nannup CRC trainee Eleanor Ross (nee Cook), who was awarded the National Financial Advisor of the Year at the 2017 Women in Finance Awards.

As with any new or modified program, time will tell how this new traineeship funding model impacts local communities. There is some concern that CRCs with lesser resources than local shires may be disadvantaged in the competitive grant application progress. However, until the first grant round has been completed it is difficult to judge if this concern is justified. As the Peak for CRCs we will support our members and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to ensure that this traineeship program has the best outcome for regional trainees.

For more information, contact

Jane Chilcott
Linkwest CEO
jane.chilcott@linkwest.asn.au
(08) 9485 8929
BACKGROUND: Community Resource Centres

Located in 105 regional and remote communities throughout Western Australia, Community Resource Centres (CRCs) are friendly, locally owned and operated service and information centres. Most centres are not-for-profit organisations that are independently owned and operated by their local community.

CRCs undertake community, business and economic development activities, and are a central point for locals, visitors and businesses, providing access to government and community services and information.

The CRCs also provide high quality video-conferencing services, enabling communities to directly access services that are otherwise unavailable in the regions. These include parenting programs, women’s health services and even court appearances.

Since the introduction of the CRC traineeship program, over 500 rural / remote people have had the opportunity to be upskilled by the CRC network. Many of the trainees have gone on to work in their local community, and some have gained employment as managers of the CRCs where they completed their traineeship. The type of certification varies depending on the need of the community, but includes Certification in Business Administration; Horticulture; Tourism; IT; Book keeping; Human Resources; Accounting; and Community Services.

BACKGROUND: Linkwest

Nedlands-based Linkwest is a small not-for-profit organisation that is largely funded by the State Government’s Department of Communities and the Department for Primary Industry and Regional Development. Linkwest is the peak body for community resource centres and neighbourhood centres in Western Australia. It offers targeted and relevant training and support to those working in small community-managed not-for-profit organisations.

Linkwest, with a staff of six, offers crucial support to more than 150 member organisations, including over 100 regional and remote Centres. More than 27,000 Western Australians currently use these centres each week. The centres provide a friendly, welcoming place where local people can meet to learn, gain new skills, make friends and feel part of their community. They also provide a safe, affordable space for playgroups, community and support groups to gather.

Former Premier of Western Australia, Professor Carmen Lawrence, is Linkwest’s official patron. She has been a patron for the past six years.

The history behind the organisation goes back to 1978 – for many years it was known as Learning Centre Link, until it was renamed Linkwest in 2011.

Go to:

www.linkwest.asn.au
www.facebook.com/Linkwest