MEDIA RELEASE
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Prelude Boost for Territory Job Training

A ground-breaking program boosting the training and employability of disadvantaged Territorians in key skill shortage occupations was launched in Darwin today by the NT Chief Minister Adam Giles and Shell Australia’s country chair, Andrew Smith.

The 'Prelude to the Future' program is a unique four way partnership between the Prelude FLNG joint venture, the NT Government, Charles Darwin University and Group Training NT.

Representatives of each of the key partners attended the launch which coincided with the opening of the Darwin Onshore Supply Base - a key piece of infrastructure supporting Shell Australia's Prelude FLNG project.

Mr Giles said the initiative was a great example of how the oil and gas industry, government, education and training sectors could work together to give people the skills to work in jobs supporting the oil and gas industry.

"This program will provide people with hands-on experience in a range of transport and logistics roles including heavy and light vehicle operators, plant, equipment and automotive electricians," Mr Giles said.

"We need to ensure we have a pipeline of skilled people trained and ready to fill a variety of transport and logistics roles to keep our resource sector powering along and this program will help meet some of that demand.

"The key to this program is that it helps unlock the potential of a group of people who typically face significant financial and educational hurdles, limiting their employability."

Participants will receive twenty weeks training through CDU, six weeks work experience and ongoing mentoring support for 18 months. In a key difference from traditional training programs, participants will also receive a wage and be supplied with work wear and gear ensuring they won't be out of pocket.

Shell Australia’s country chair, Andrew Smith said the Prelude joint venture comprising Shell Australia, Inpex, Kogas and OPIC was committed to playing an active role in increasing employability in the Northern Territory especially among the disadvantaged.

"Collaboration within the oil and gas sector and investment in programs such as 'Prelude to the Future' are critical if we are to spread the benefits of resource development throughout the community," Mr Smith said.

"In addition to receiving mechanical, numeracy and literacy training from CDU, participants will be supported by Group Training NT through mentoring programs and receive practical assistance to help them prepare for job applications and interviews.

"The Prelude joint venture sees this as a crucial social investment which supports our presence in the Northern Territory and one which we hope has the ability to transform lives."

The program will run for two years and provide training for up to 20 Territorians.

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