

Submission from employers involved in the Professional and Technical Services Cluster, part of the South Australian Aboriginal Employment Industry Cluster Program

The Professional and Technical Services Cluster, and the Defence Industries Cluster, are part of the wider Governor's Aboriginal Employment Industry Cluster Program (AEICP). There are a large number of jobs available now and in the future in South Australia across all participating industry sectors, which will increase the participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the workforce as well as supporting Indigenous businesses.

Among the AEICP, we have identified a consistent barrier in which the majority of First Nations students are generally unaware of these potential careers; particularly, accounting and engineering. Potentially from the lack of exposure in early education around the type of employment opportunities available, what these careers actually look like, how exciting they can be, how they can be accessed and how they can benefit their communities. Careers in these areas are significantly different to the stereotypes perceived in the public domain, and the diverse range of skills and pathways provide excellent career opportunities to work with communities. Our cluster is working towards preparing media to showcase the variety of work done and how the skills can assist communities.

ISEP could help to close the gap in First Nations employment outcomes across South Australia by financially supporting programs that connect companies in these sectors with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, particularly in high schools. For example, STEM camps for high school students supported by employers from these sectors who interact with the students, and showcase future career opportunities; supported by ongoing managed mentoring schemes involving Indigenous staff from these companies.

████████████████████ National Director Sustainability, WSP. Co-chair of the PTS Cluster

██████████ Managing Director, Rainy Day Recruitment. Co-chair of the PTS Cluster

██████████ Manager, Corporate Finance, Moore Australia. Member PTS Cluster

██████████ Executive Officer, Aboriginal Employment Industry Cluster Program (AEICP)