



MG CORPORATION NEWS



Participants in last year's 100+ Jobs Initiative's 'I Am Ready' Program.



100+ Jobs success story Indigo Gerrard, who secured a job with Legal Aid.



Darnell Thaiday, who has secured a job with MGCBM through 100+ Jobs

SUCCESSFUL MGC PROGRAM RECEIVES ADDITIONAL FUNDING

MG Corporation is happy to announce its successful 100+ Jobs Initiative will continue for another 12 months after a funding extension from the Commonwealth was secured.

The initiative aims to get at least 100 of the East Kimberley's most disadvantaged people into employment.

Sixty-one people have already found jobs through the scheme, including Indigo Gerrard and Darnell Thaiday (pictured).

Some of the positions successfully obtained by 100+ Jobs participants to date include farmhand, traffic management, building and

maintenance, administration and mining.

100+ Jobs Initiative Manager Keith Pitt said a key feature of the program was intensive one-on-one mentoring from employment coordinators which continued after employment was found.

"Some of the people we support have never been employed before, or have been unemployed for a long time, so we work intensively with them to get them job-ready," he said.

"Overall, the feedback from our clients has been positive and since I've been involved, I have seen significant changes in their mindsets."

Employment coordinators work with job seekers to match candidates with suitable jobs to increase the odds of sustainable permanent employment.

The program's focus will shift towards younger Indigenous people and will partner with organisations to assist Year 11 and 12 students with finding work placement with the potential to transition into traineeships or apprenticeships.

This round of funding was received by the National Indigenous Australians Agency.

MG CORPORATION WELCOMES NEW STAFF

Keith Pitt

MG Corporation recently welcomed Keith Pitt to the role of 100+ Jobs Initiative Manager.

Keith hails from Mossman in far north Queensland but has had several stints living in Kununurra since first moving here in 1999 and meeting his partner.

During his time in Kununurra he was previously employed as a teacher's aide at East Kimberley College before moving to North Regional TAFE as the Aboriginal Development

Officer and subsequently spent time as an advisor for the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Indigenous Affairs) office in Kununurra.

After working with the Department of Finance in Canberra, Keith moved back to Kununurra in February last year and worked for Kimberley Group Training.

MG Corporation is excited to have an experienced professional with an existing connection to the community heading up the 100+ Jobs Initiative going forwards.



100+ Jobs Initiative Manager Keith Pitt

Joseph Smith

MG Corporation was also joined by Joseph Smith in the position of Finance Manager.

Joseph brings a wealth of experience in finance and governance across private industry and government to the position.

He holds a Bachelor of Economics from the University of Western Australia and is a Chartered Accountant, in addition to recently completing a Certificate in Governance and Risk Management with the Governance Institute of Australia.

In his role at MG Corporation, Joseph will focus on the financial management of the organisation and its entities, while seeking opportunities to mentor and develop MG staff in traineeships.

Joseph moved to Kununurra from the South West with his wife, who is a teacher.

Both are Fremantle Dockers supporters and are keen to explore the Kimberley's fishing, camping and cultural learning opportunities.



MG Corporation's new finance manager Joseph Smith.

Yvonne Van Der Wees

MG Corporation would also like to introduce Victorian-born Yvonne Van Der Wees, who is taking on the role of administration officer.

After spending her youth travelling, living and working across Australia with her husband, Yvonne has spent the past 11 years in the Kimberley as office manager of the Kununurra Visitor Centre.

During this time she also volunteered and worked across a range of

organisations, such as the Kimberley Moon Experience – Ord Valley Muster, East Kimberley Job Pathways, Kimberley Experiences and the East Kimberley Chamber of Commerce.

In Yvonne's spare time she loves camping, exploring, boating, fishing, hiking, photography and gardening.

"I have so much passion and love for this region with its incredible natural beauty, culture, remoteness and sense of community," she said.

"Kununurra is home."



MG Corporation's new administration officer Yvonne Van Der Wees.

MGC BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE WINS DUAL AWARDS

MG Corporation offers its congratulations to MGC Building and Maintenance for being recognised at this month's East Kimberley Small Business Awards (EKSBA) for its outstanding efforts.

The EKSBA are presented by the East Kimberley Chamber of Commerce and Industry, with eight categories and an overall EKSBA winner named.

MGCBM was named the winner in two categories, receiving the 2020 Business with 11-20 Employees award and the 2020 Aboriginal Business award.

The EKCCI was unable to present the awards at the scheduled gala event due to COVID-19, but members of the EKCCI board met with each recipient to present the personalised award plates individually.



MGCBM's Curt McCartney, Dean Baker, back, and Alex Ripps, front.

The 2020 EKSBA Business with 11-20 Employees plate won by MGC Building and Maintenance.



MGCBM workers with the kitchen they helped construct and fit out at 15 Argentea Avenue.

MGC BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE DELIVERS THREE DWELLINGS

MGC Building and Maintenance was able to progress construction on dwellings for the North-West Aboriginal Housing Fund (NWAHF) project this month despite the challenges presented by COVID-19.

The NWAHF project in the East Kimberley provides transitional housing for Aboriginal people to assist them to work towards owning their own home.

Practical completion was achieved on three houses at 11 Nauclea Way and 15 & 16 Argentea Avenue, which were handed over on Friday, May 15.

The houses were built with over 60 per cent Indigenous labour and completed to a high standard.

MGCBM employs 10 Indigenous people, including four apprentices and three local tradespeople.

Fourteen houses have been handed over as part of the NWAHF contract, with 12 still to come.

There are seven houses currently under construction, with two more due to be handed over at the end of next month.



MGCBM employees with special helper Spot outside the completed house at 11 Nauclea Way.

UPDATED TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS FOR THE KIMBERLEY AND REMOTE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

On Friday, 5 June, the Kimberley reopened to tourists and travellers, but restrictions on entry to remote Aboriginal communities remain in place to protect the health and wellbeing of residents.

The Remote Aboriginal Communities Directions were recently changed to allow greater access to Aboriginal communities.

The changes were made so more community programs and services can be delivered, and residents can enjoy a return to normal activities.

Anyone outside a remote Aboriginal community can enter that community if they are:

- a resident;
- entering for family of cultural purposes; **providing essential services or supplies, such as:**
 - > health workers
 - > police
 - > child protection workers
 - > teachers
 - > housing officers

delivering community programs and activities, such as:

- > play group
- > governance/capacity building training
- > Aboriginal ranger and conservation programs
- > sport
- > cultural activities such as art, craft and dance
- > employment or work programs
- > native title and/or community business
- > entering in an emergency.

The above exemptions only apply if the person entering the remote community:

- is not displaying symptoms or awaiting a COVID-19 test result;
- has not been in close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case; or
- has not been exposed to COVID-19 or been in an environment where they could be exposed (such as hospitals or aged care facilities) 14 days prior to entry.

REMOTE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS FAQs

Can visitors go into the Kimberley?

Yes, from 5 June 2020 anyone can travel into those areas. However, people still need an entry permit to go onto some Aboriginal Lands Trust reserves.

Why are there still State Government travel restrictions on Aboriginal communities?

There are still restrictions on Aboriginal communities because Aboriginal people, especially those living remotely, have a higher risk of getting sick from the coronavirus than other Western Australians.

If the coronavirus gets into an Aboriginal community, it would be a serious health problem for residents, especially Elders and people who already have a medical condition.

If someone leaves the community and gets coronavirus while they are away, or comes into contact with someone with the coronavirus while they are away, what should they do?

They should stay away and not go back into the community. This is because the coronavirus can spread quickly throughout the community and other people may get sick, especially Elders.

People who have (or think they have) been in contact with someone with the coronavirus should contact the nearest health service or clinic to get a test.

People who have the coronavirus cannot go back to their community until they are cleared by an authorised health officer.

People who need to stay in town before going home to their community can call the Disaster Response Hotline on 1800 032 965 for help with temporary accommodation.

Can tourists and travellers go into remote Aboriginal communities?

No, tourists and visitors are not allowed to travel into Aboriginal communities.

However, travellers can drive through if they do not stop or come into contact with any person in the community.

Tourists and visitors may be allowed into communities that are not covered by the travel restrictions.

People should contact the community before planning to travel there to find out what restrictions apply.

Can family or extended family living in town come into our community to visit?

Yes, the Remote Aboriginal Communities Directions allow for people to come into remote Aboriginal communities for family or cultural purposes.

People do not need to special approval to visit their family members in communities.

How do we know which communities have travel restrictions and which don't?

The list of communities covered by the travel restrictions can be found at the end (Schedule 1) of the Remote Aboriginal Communities Directions.

Before travelling to any remote Aboriginal community, you should contact them first to find out what local restrictions or risk management measures are in place.

How long will the travel restrictions on remote Aboriginal communities remain in place?

Travel restrictions could remain in place for at least as long as the State Government has declared a State of Emergency because of the coronavirus.

Where can I find out more?

If you would like more information, please contact the Complex Task Team – Remote Aboriginal Communities at APCUPandemic-Coord@dpc.wa.gov.au.

You can also call 13 COVID (13 268 43).



MG CORPORATION
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