



MEDIA RELEASE

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TRAINEES BOOST SKILLS IN CONSTRUCTION

An initiative to boost work-ready skills for individuals with Indigenous, asylum seeker and refugee backgrounds, as well as the long-term unemployed, has welcomed its first participants as part of the Parramatta Light Rail project.

Dr Geoff Lee, Member for Parramatta said that seven candidates were offered a traineeship following a two-week pre-employment program designed to help develop their confidence and abilities, and have completed three months in their new roles.

“These hard-working individuals have faced many challenges in life and it is rewarding to see them benefit from hands-on training and mentoring from senior leaders,” said Dr Lee.

“Their careers are just beginning and they should feel very proud of their journey so far.”

The candidates have received site familiarisation, help with establishing industry connections and are now eligible to enrol in a Certificate II in Civil Construction traineeship.

As part of the project’s workforce development targets, Parramatta Light Rail infrastructure works contractors Parramatta Connect worked with federal employment service Job Active to identify individuals from a range of disadvantaged backgrounds and underrepresented groups.

Participants ranging in age from 21 to 34 years old, including some with previous experience in the hospitality industry and warehousing logistics, were offered a place in the program to upskill and gain entry into the construction industry.

Dr Lee said all participants contribute to a Parramatta Light Rail project target for 20 per cent of the workforce to be “learning workers”.

“As a major transport infrastructure project, it’s important that we give back as we build,” said Dr Lee.

“These ‘learning’ workers will form the workforce of tomorrow and are part of the legacy we’re creating of new jobs, an appetite for learning and opportunity for everyone.”

The \$2.4 billion Parramatta Light Rail will connect Westmead to Carlingford via the Parramatta CBD and Camellia and is expected to open in 2023. Visit www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au