



PRISE Program

Post Release Indigenous Sustainable Employment

PRISE is a free, confidential program funded by DEEWR through
STEP ERS funding

BSI Learning commenced this pilot program in May 2007 in 6 locations throughout QLD. The focus of the PRISE (Post Release Indigenous Sustainable Employment Initiative) program is Indigenous men and women who are on remand, parole or probation or have previously recorded a criminal conviction


Working effectively with
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Employees



PRISE provides support with:

- Individualised service and support for each client, one on one.
- Pre-employment mentoring support, job readiness training, and 12 months post job placement intensive mentoring.
- Resume preparation, Interview technique training.
- Support with job search, accessing training, traineeships and all employment opportunities.
- Provide Accredited training, and also non accredited training such as Blue Card (construction), forklift ticket, first aid training.
- Teaching the client how to access support from their Job Network Provider and Centre link.
- Support with other needs such as housing, social issues, health needs which may have previously prevented them from gaining sustained employment.

Role of the Support Officer

- BSI Learning's support officers for the PRISE program are Indigenous and non Indigenous. Many of them have held a previous role as a VET trainer in the correctional centres in QLD.
 - Often the familiar face of our support officer eases the client into joining the program. As we don't generally provide funds as such, sometimes they are not sure how we can really help them that is any different from their Job Network member.
 - If needed the support officer will meet them on day of release and provide immediate support.
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Linkages with other Organisations

- We liaise with Probation and Parole so clients are aware of the program.
- Our trainers in correctional centres place marketing in areas of the centre that offenders have access to.
- We work with NGO's especially Indigenous organisations to promote the program.
- Job networks refer clients to us.
- We advise the Indigenous Liaison officer at Centrelink branches of the program

Client Obligations

- Must obtain JSID (job seeker ID)
- Must fulfil their obligation to Centrelink by attending job network appointments with their case manager
- Must meet or speak regularly with their support officer from BSI Learning.
- Must be willing to obtain full time or part time work

Program Success to Date

- 64 participants began on the program- all Indigenous ex offenders
- Regions the program was available in- Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Maryborough and Brisbane
- 15 have had full time employment for 13 weeks or more.
- 8 reached 26 weeks fulltime employment
- There are currently 4 who have reached 39 weeks of sustained fulltime employment of the 64.
- Many more have commenced employment and moved to another region are are currently looking for work
- Although this seems a small figure, the program has paved the way for Indigenous ex offenders to empower themselves and realise their opportunities to succeed post release from serving time in correctional centres.

The future of the PRISE Program

- DEEWR see the program as a success
- BSI Learning have now introduced the program in NSW focusing in western Sydney.
- DEEWR have awarded a new contract for 08/09 for QLD to continue the program, with an increased focus on pre employment training.
- We have reduced the regions and are running the program in Townsville, Rockhampton, Maryborough and Brisbane.

Success Stories on PRISE

One client, who left prison late last year with no solid work history, was determined to pursue a career path. With the assistance from our support officer he obtained a labouring position in Townsville. He then left this position and took a job working in a sawmill. He wanted a position in the mining industry. By keeping in touch with our support officer, assisted by his job network member, he obtained the necessary information to apply for a mining position. He was successful and was enjoying his new position and industry. He was offered a supervisors position and is still working there earning an income he could only dream of when he was in the Townsville Correctional Centre.

PRISE in the future

- By keeping in touch with offenders, whether they have been recently released, or have been out of prison for a sustained period of time, we can see the positive effect of long term one on one mentoring and support
- BSI Learning will continue to assist offenders into sustained employment due to the ongoing success of this pilot program

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Contracts
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