

Case Study: The FIFO Kitchen Hand

AN AMMA Skills Connect training and employment program not only gave Chris Thomas a full time job, but a renewed sense of self-worth.

He was one of 20 West Australian jobseekers who took part in a specialist program providing skills and entry-level employment outcomes for Indigenous Australians in the resource industry's hospitality support sector.

A partnership between the Australian Government-funded industry skills initiative AMMA Skills Connect, Indigenous careers centre Access Working Careers and hospitality service company ESS Support Services Worldwide, the Indigenous Pathways program assisted Chris to gain a Certificate II in Hospitality and begin work as a kitchen hand.

Here, he speaks about his involvement in the program and his new fly-in, fly-out role at the ESS-managed Brockman 4 iron ore worker accommodation village in the Pilbara.



Why did you want to be involved in the hospitality training and employment program?

I had previously worked as a stonemason and labourer, but I found myself looking for work and was unsure of what to do. I saw the program as an opportunity to do something different, with the added bonus of gaining new skills.

What did you enjoy about the program?

I really enjoyed the hands-on training as a kitchen worker and learning about how the mine accommodation village is run. I'm the type of person that likes things to be 'just right', so if I see that something needs to be done while I'm on shift, I do it.

How are you adjusting to the FIFO lifestyle?

I think the FIFO lifestyle is fantastic. You have to work hard, but I love it.

When I'm travelling to and from work, I get to meet site managers and other workers, and learn about what they do. It's a great way to make new friends.

Do you believe it is a positive move for resource employers, the government and job service agencies to collaborate on pre-employment opportunities for Indigenous Australians?

Definitely, I didn't really know what I wanted to do before this, but now I'm proud. I'm proud of what I have achieved and the work that I do.

I think if there is opportunity for more Indigenous Australians to get involved in programs like this, it will be a very good thing.



> Get involved today

To learn more about AMMA Skills Connect visit www.amma.org.au or call **1800 627 771**.

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