



REAL FUTURES

“Women’s Business helped me find a job, prepare for an interview, and get all my documents ready to get back into the workforce”
– Lucinda Marlowe

“Colours of my Mother” © by Alison Williams gallery@yarrawarra.com.au

Western Sydney, August 4 – Many First Nations women have been marginalised from economic and social inclusion through circumstance and stereotype. The Women’s Business: Second Chance (WBSC) hub is a ground-breaking new program that aims to ensure that women who are at risk of being left behind have access to participate in and achieve quality learning, entrepreneurship, and employment outcomes through educational and vocational training.

A Supply Nation Certified Company, Real Futures has partnered with UN Women to deliver the first program of its kind in a developed country. The WBSC hub, supported by BHP Foundation as part of their global commitment to enabling access for all women to quality education, is being piloted in Western Sydney, a region that has the highest concentration of Aboriginal people of any single region in Australia.

“Part of our target are Indigenous women who have left school early to have babies and now want to finish their education, or indeed any woman of any age seeking to apply themselves to some vocational training or just participate for their own wellbeing,” explains Real Futures Founder and Chairperson Wendy Yarnold, who hails from Biripi Nation on the Mid North Coast of NSW. “We are providing a safe place for these women to come to, to dream and just breathe and consider what it is that they would like to do,” Yarnold said.

The hub virtually launched today, August 4, 2020, with a video premiering on Facebook and living on our website <http://realfutures.net/-womens-business/>. In the spectacular video, hear from Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians, Ken Wyatt, Federal Minister for Employment and Small Business, Michaelia Cash, and the Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians, Linda Burney. Also hear from current deadly participants within the hub, as well as from Wendy and Sarah Hendriks, from UN Women in New York.

Despite a pause in activities due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, the hub is now officially back and running with 100 women and counting registered. When asked to identify the barriers those currently registered with the hub are facing, over 70% of the Western Sydney based Indigenous women identified housing and finances as a major barrier to entering the workforce or engaging in study; most have difficulty affording rent and mortgages. Transportation is also an issue with 32% of current participants without a vehicle or driver’s licence. Another 28% identified serious health barriers – physical and mental. Finally, 22% have parenting and caring responsibilities.

“There is an urgent need to drive solutions, especially for women who have missed out on education and ensure that they are able to access decent work opportunities,” states Sarah Hendriks, Director Programme, Policy and Intergovernmental Division at UN Women in New York. As Minister Wyatt emphasises, “Not only do Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women play pivotal leadership roles in their families and communities, but they are also central to the development, growth and diversity of the Australian economy.”

To interview our current aspirants, Wendy Yarnold or any of our partners, please contact Wendy on 0412 874 384 or Christianna on 0457 272 508, or email us at info@realfutures.net.

About Us

Real Futures

Real Futures is a majority Aboriginal owned, controlled and managed Supply Nation Certified Company. Our mission is to appropriately skill and empower Aboriginal people to become workplace assets and community role models. Founded in 2011 by Wendy Yarnold who later took on partnerships with Angus Knight we have significantly broadened our scope to encompass all opportunities with all Industry Sectors and our success has enabled an expansion of our footprint across three states with the first National VTEC contract and now DES services. “There is an urgent need to drive solutions, especially for women who have missed out on education and ensure that they are able to access decent work opportunities,” states Sarah Hendriks, Director Programme, Policy and Intergovernmental Division at UN Women in New York. As Minister Wyatt emphasises, “Not only do Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women play pivotal leadership roles in their families and communities, but they are also central to the development, growth and diversity of the Australian economy.”

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UN Women

UN Women is the global champion for gender equality, working to develop and uphold standards and create an environment in which every woman and girl can exercise her human rights and live up to her full potential. We are trusted partners for advocates and decision-makers from all walks of life, and a leader in the effort to achieve gender equality.

BHP Foundation

The BHP Foundation works to address some of the world’s most critical sustainable development challenges. By working in partnership with others we seek to raise the bar, find new solutions and set new standards for the future. The BHP Foundation is committed to enabling equitable access to quality education as the pathway through which people build the skills and knowledge to seize the opportunities to improve their lives, enhance communities and societies, and ensure they are not left behind.