

Port Augusta City Council announced as a finalist in Local Government Professionals Annual Leadership Excellence Awards

Port Augusta City Council has been nominated as a finalist in the Local Government Professionals 23rd Annual Leadership Excellence Awards.

The Council has been acknowledged for its outstanding contribution in the category of Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion, specifically for its Access and Inclusion Program. '18.2% of the Port Augusta population is unemployed against the state average of 15.6% (ABS 2021 Census), additionally people with a disability are 48% more likely to be unemployed, Council, like all employers, can provide opportunities to change this' Strategy, People and Culture Manager Theresa Hines stated.

Enel Green Power Australia's sponsored initiative enabled ten community members with disabilities, who had been unemployed for an extended period, to take part in an employment program facilitated by the Council. During the program, participants underwent either a 26 or 52 week intensive training process to acquire skills that would empower them to pursue future employment opportunities within the region. Sunny Rutherford from Enel Green Power Australia expressed pride in their partnership with this commendable program.

Engaging in roles within Community Development, Yarta Purtli Art Gallery, the Library, and the Depot, participants received substantial support from these teams. Liz Moore of Community Bridging Services (CBS) remarked, "Our collaboration with the Council has proven immensely beneficial for our clients, providing them with opportunities crucial to their personal and professional growth."

CEO John Banks stated, "We have multiple community-based programs across Council and we are delighted to hear that the Access and Inclusion Program had earned a well-deserved place on the shortlist of finalists, after a rigorous evaluation process by an independent judging panel."

"This acknowledgment shows Council's dedication to nurturing diversity and inclusion within our workplace and our community." CEO John Banks stated.

Mayor Linley Shine stated, "Being named a finalist at these awards is a remarkable accomplishment, and it highlights the dedication and hard work of the Port Augusta City Council in promoting diversity and inclusion."

The winners will be announced at the Local Government Professionals Australia SA 23rd Annual Leadership Excellence Awards ceremony, held on Friday, 10 May 2024 at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

JOHN BANKS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
PORT AUGUSTA CITY COUNCIL



Photo: Left to Right – Alecia Press CBS, Mikayla Grocke access and inclusion program participant, Mayor Linley Shine, Liz Moore CBS.



Photo: Left to Right – Port Augusta City Council Depo Manager Sheila McGregor with access and inclusion program participant Caleb Reid.