



MEDIA RELEASE

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Vinnies providing supported training in Cairns

Cairns jobseekers struggling to get a foot in the door can learn frontline retail and customer service skills thanks to Vinnies and the Queensland Government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work program.

Vinnies will partner with a registered training organisation to deliver *Pathways to Working in Retail* courses part-time over 12 weeks, which give eligible participants the opportunity to complete a Certificate II in Retail Operations.

Vinnies Far North Queensland region Executive Officer David Monaghan, said the Certificate II courses exemplify Vinnies motto of giving people a hand up, not a hand out.

"This program will allow us to support jobseekers who may have been overlooked due to skill deficiencies to take advantage of the widening opportunities in these areas and to become assets to their future employers," he said. "People who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander are strongly encouraged to apply.

"The students' learning aligns with local industry needs and will provide multiple avenues for them to enter the workforce in a range of areas including speciality retailers, supermarkets, warehouses and quick service restaurants.

"Vinnies is proud to partner with the State Government to make a difference in the lives of disadvantaged jobseekers in our community.

"Vinnies are also keen to hear from local employers who have the capacity to assist with the placement of participants in their business."

The first course starts on 29 April, and the second on 19 August. Participants will receive support and mentoring, with transport, uniform and other supports also available through the 12 weeks.

The courses includes a week-long work experience placement with a local employer to embed the course training into real world observations and activities.

Vinnies Far North Queensland region, which includes Cairns, supported 13,252 Queenslanders in need in 2018.

The training is proudly funded and supported by the Queensland Government through its Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative.

Two information sessions will be held on 9 April and 16 April from 10am at Vinnies Earville, 479 Mulgrave Road, Earville and people should email their interest in attending to education@svdpqld.org.au

For more information on the program contact Vinnies Community Education Coordinator Brooke Laidlaw on (07) 3010 1083.

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