

# Media Release



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## Partnership opens Indigenous employment pathways

Essential Energy is partnering with The Clontarf Foundation and The Girls Academy to promote employment pathways for Indigenous students into apprenticeships and traineeships across regional NSW as part of the organisation's focus on diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

The Clontarf Foundation aims to improve the education, discipline, life skills, self-esteem and employment prospects of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men.

"We are excited about the partnership with Essential Energy and hope to grow our program into the future to provide more employment opportunities for young Indigenous men," Clontarf Chair, Ross Kelly, said.

The Girls Academy assists at-risk Indigenous girls to overcome the barriers preventing them from attending and achieving at school – enabling them to reach their full potential.

"This new partnership will help to create a pathway for potential employment opportunities for young Indigenous females in regional and rural NSW into the future," Phil Paioff from the Girls Academy said.

Essential Energy Chief Executive Officer, John Cleland, said the regional electricity network provider was committed to building a culturally diverse and inclusive workplace, regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability or sexual orientation.

"As an economic enabler for regional, rural and remote NSW, Essential Energy is striving for greater inclusivity and a workforce that reflects the diversity of communities we serve," John said.

"Our three-year partnership with The Clontarf Foundation and The Girls Academy will help to build the capability of Indigenous males and females and potentially lead to pathways into employment such as apprenticeships and traineeships."

Essential Energy's 2018 apprentice intake includes 11 females and 10 Indigenous people – six of whom successfully transitioned from the organisation's Indigenous apprentice pre-employment program.

The new partnerships with The Clontarf Foundation and The Girls Academy were celebrated with an event at Essential Energy's Wagga Wagga depot where 20 Clontarf Foundation students learned about operating the electricity network with demonstrations from field-based Essential Energy staff and apprentices.

For more information on Indigenous employment opportunities with Essential Energy, visit [essentialenergy.com.au/careers/indigenous-opportunities](http://essentialenergy.com.au/careers/indigenous-opportunities).

**Media contact: Simone Plews, Corporate Media Manager  
02 6588 6733 or 0457 514 993**