



## **MEDIA RELEASE:**

**February 18, 2015**

### **Northern Futures a global leader on jobs skills delivery**

Geelong-based Northern Futures is setting international benchmarks in its delivery of a work skills program that targets unemployed young people from the northern suburbs.

Northern Futures Program Manager Helen Long said Northern Futures administers the Alcoa Foundation's Global Internship Program for Unemployed Youth and is achieving results in Geelong as good as anywhere in the world.

"Northern Futures is achieving graduate employment rates of 70% among its Alcoa Foundation interns, 23% higher than the program average. Only one other partner, in the United Kingdom, has achieved these graduate employment levels," Ms Long said.

"We are about half-way through the two year program so these are interim results but we very excited to deliver such positive outcomes for our participants."

The Global Internship Program, which is funded by a US\$1.25 million grant from Alcoa Foundation, involves 500 participants world-wide and is administered by ten non-government partner organisations in eight countries. Northern Futures is the only Australian organisation delivering the program.

**Emil Levy, Senior Program Officer at the Institute of International Education and manager of Alcoa Foundation's Global Internship Program for Unemployed Youth will be key-note speaker at the Northern Futures Industry Partners Breakfast in Geelong tomorrow morning.**

"We are thrilled to have Mr Levy join us here in Australia. His visit provides our community with a unique opportunity to hear a global perspective on job skills delivery," Ms Long said.

"It is heartening to know that what we are doing here in Geelong is world's best practice.

“A big part of our success is due to the contribution of our community partners, across the industry, education, and government and not-for-profit sectors. They deserve our thanks for their continuing commitment to creating sustainable employment outcomes for young people in our city.

“We also know from feedback we have received that our understanding of the knowledge gap that can exist between the chronically unemployed and employers is unique to the Global Internship Program.

“Our work at Northern Futures is strongly informed by the ‘Bridges out of Poverty’ framework and so it’s particularly well-timed that we have one of the world’s most renowned ‘Bridges’ educators, Nairn Walker, in Geelong on the same day as Mr Levy.

“Ms Walker will lead a “Bridges out of Poverty” workshop that will enable people in Geelong to further develop their understanding of social disadvantage and enhance the effectiveness of their own programs.”

**Thursday, February 19, 2015**

- **Northern Futures Industry Partners Breakfast** at Truffleduck from 7.30am.
- **Bridges out of Poverty workshop** at the Deakin Clinical School Lecture Theatre, Barwon Health, Ryrie St, Geelong, 10am – 1pm.

To arrange an interview Emil Levy or Nairn Walker, please contact:

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