



# Industry Partners Breakfast

## Northern Futures has received an international tick of approval for its delivery of the Alcoa Foundation Global Internship Program for Unemployed Youth.

Program manager Emil Levy believes Northern Futures is setting international benchmarks in the results it is achieving for young people in Geelong's northern suburbs.

"Northern Futures is achieving graduate employment rates of 70% among its Alcoa Foundation interns, 23% higher than the program average," Mr Levy said.

Mr Levy, who is also Senior Program Officer at the Institute of International Education, was key-note speaker at the Northern Futures Industry Partners Breakfast on February 19 attended by more than 170 people from Geelong industry and locally-based organisations.

"What I am seeing from Northern Futures is 'best practice' and the lessons we are learning will be used to boost the success of the Global Internship Program around the world," Mr Levy told the audience.

The Global Internship Program involves 500 participants around the

world and is delivered by ten non-government partner organisations in eight countries.

"We are about mid-way through the program so these are interim results but only one other partner, in the United Kingdom, has achieved this level of success," Mr Levy said.

"The Northern Futures model is unique in its understanding of the knowledge gap that can exist between the chronically unemployed and employers. This is integral to its effectiveness and none of our other global partners has that focus.

"The organisation also demonstrates the critical importance of having strong relationships between industry, education and community stakeholders. Northern Futures is deeply rooted in its community and that is really the key to its success," Mr Levy said.

Mr Levy was joined at the breakfast by acclaimed Bridges out of Poverty



Kate Betts, Emil Levy, and Lou Brazier

educator, Nairn Walker, who spoke about acquired social mindsets and the barriers that can exist for people from generational poverty seeking sustainable employment.

Northern Futures program manager Helen Long said Northern Futures work was strongly informed by 'Bridges out of Poverty' and it was a great thrill to have Nairn Walker and Emil Levy speak to Geelong audiences on the same day.

"Ms Walker's insights into social disadvantage are particularly valuable for people working in the education and social services sectors but it is also hugely beneficial for our industry partners to understand the role we all play in breaking down barriers to sustainable employment," Ms Long said.



Keith Fagg and Dr Mark Kennedy



Kate Kent and Sarah Leach



Nairn Walker and Simon Ramsay



Cr Kylie Fisher, Justin Giddings and Cr Michelle Heagney



Ken Massari and Mel Martinelli



Sharon Kerlin, Simone Bellears and Matthew Luttrell



Frank Costa and Lou Brazier



John Miles, Peter Dorling and Professor David Ashbridge



Jean Paul and Maureen Ryan



John Miles and Robin Miles



Rhonda O'Connor, Patrick O'Connor, Terrence Breen and Helen Long



Joan McGovern and Jim Cousins



Liam O'Hagan, Gerard Corbett and Peter Neilson



Emil Levy and Professor David Ashbridge



David Warren, Anne O'Brien, Denise Rock and David Johnson