

## NEWS FROM THE FRONT

### Parsons Brinckerhoff launches plan to help Indigenous communities

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#### Brief – 27 October 2010 –

Engineering company Parsons Brinckerhoff earlier this month launched its reconciliation action plan at the Art Gallery of NSW among some of Australia's best indigenous art collection in the Yiribana Gallery.

PB managing director Dr Jim Mantle said the RAP signalled a new level of commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander well-being.

"The RAP sets goals for us as a corporate entity and requires each of our regional offices to develop their own strategies to engage with Indigenous Australians.

"As a leading infrastructure consultancy PB has a long history of working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities," he said.

The company project manages a remote areas essential services program, operating in 90 remote Aboriginal communities in Western Australia.

Sustainability Program Manager Australia Caroline Holmstrom said the RAP was a first step and "more a way of mentoring and setting up opportunities for employment because that's what you need to do in the first instance. Setting targets first up is probably unwise."

It was also a cultural education for people working on the ground with indigenous communities, Ms Holmstrom said.

PB also supports the Indigenous Australian Engineering Summer School and at the RAP launch young indigenous engineering student Jacob Hyland was awarded a \$3000 scholarship to help with his studies.



**From left to right: Ben Lange, Australia's first Indigenous engineer, Anne Vans-Colina, Engineering Aid Australia, Liz Ernester; Jacob Hyland, scholarship winner; Peter Berry, Engineering Aid Australia**

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