



Alliance indigenous work study

GIOA to aid employment

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A NEW study that aims to create sustainable employment opportunities for indigenous people in the Mid West was announced by the Geraldton Iron Ore Alliance this week.

Deputy Chairman of the Geraldton Iron Ore alliance Rob Jefferies said the reason for the study was to get more local people involved in mining projects and better co-ordinate the planning and delivery of jobs for indigenous people.

“Unemployment within the indigenous community is unacceptably high, with almost half of the Mid West’s registered unemployed being Aboriginal people, despite the fact that less than 10 per cent of the population of the Mid

West are indigenous,” said Mr Jefferies.

He said new mining projects in the region would create good employment outcomes for Aboriginal people in the Mid West iron ore industry, which had a life expectancy of 40 years or more, and it was vital the industry was sustainable for the communities it operated in.

“The increasing tightness in the labour market has resulted in the emergence and increased severity of shortages in a number of occupations. For a viable economy, the region must have enough appropriately skilled workers capable of meeting demand,” he said.

The study will look at the preferred jobs, level of skill and work readiness, which will help



Rob Jefferies

is that sometimes Aboriginal people want to take time off for ceremonies or they don’t want to work the full shift because they have certain needs and obligations to family. There often exists a difference between the different cultures as to how things should work,” he said.

The GIOA, made up of eight junior mining companies in the Mid West, has committed \$60,000 to the skills study, which will collect data from indigenous people in the region who are interested in working in the resources industry.

The study has been initiated by the Mid West Mining and Aboriginal Economic Development Partnership of which the GIOA is a member.

companies develop culturally-appropriate training and support programs.

General manager of Indigenous Business Australia Rob Morony, said there were “no hard and fast definitions” to what the term culturally appropriate meant in workplaces, but general examples included cultural and family obligations.

“One of the concerns