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Media Release:

High School students inspired by mining

Twenty-eight students from Collie Senior High School recently experienced what a career in the mining industry at Premier Coal would be like as part of the Work Inspiration Reach Out program run by The Smith Family.

As part of the program, the Year Nine students participate in a two-day schedule where they visit workplaces to gain an insight into employment, connect with a business and explore a career pathway with that employer.

Premier Coal was delighted to host the students for an afternoon. They were welcomed onsite with a safety briefing, taken on a tour of the workshop and viewed the open cut pit. They then sat down with members of the Premier Coal team to discuss their day-to-day roles and understand career possibilities in the resources sector.

Diane Blount, The Smith Family's *Learning for Life* Program Coordinator for Collie and Bunbury was pleased the students could experience being miners for a day.

"Youth unemployment here is around double the national rate. We have recognised that young people from disadvantaged backgrounds often lack the understanding, encouragement, and aspirations to explore their future career options.

"By offering the Work Inspiration Reach Out program to High School students, we aim to help them successfully navigate the transition to work, be motivated, engaged, and have realistic job expectations.

"The students gain a lot of knowledge visiting potential employers and we also see how much the businesses enjoy highlighting their workplace to the future leaders in the community.

"We are thankful to Premier Coal for arranging an engaging session," said Diane.

Managed by The Smith Family, Work Inspiration is an employer-led initiative that provides young people with opportunities to experience the world of work firsthand in a meaningful and inspiring way. It helps students build careers knowledge and broaden their perspectives, whilst also inspiring employers to highlight their work and employment opportunities, engage with the future workforce and support their local community.

Premier Coal Operations Manager, Braedon Gaske, was pleased to have the students onsite.

"Ensuring students in our community get the best education they can is one of our key priorities as a large employer in Collie.

“As part of that aspiration, it is vital that students in our area experience the practical firsthand side of employment to really explore potential career opportunities.

“We have been working with The Smith Family for several years and this is another one of their great programs they offer students in our community.

“We were delighted to be included and look forward to hosting more students in the future,” said Braedon.

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Media contact:

Tracy Woodley

tracy.woodley@yancoal.com.au;