



Left: Julie Cartwright, Jayshree Mamtora (ALIA NT Manager), and Alex Kersemakers at the ALIA 80th birthday celebrations in Darwin.
Above: Winners of the 2017 ALIA NT Recognition Award, Get That Job team (left to right): Lisa Burnett, Alicia Kent and Rosie Martinez.

DARWIN LIBRARIES HELP YOUTH TO FIND WORK

It's not easy for many young people to get a job but, with the help of City of Darwin Libraries, the youth of the Northern Territory capital have been finding it easier to get a foothold in the labour market, as JAYSHREE MAMTORA reports.

ALIA Northern Territory celebrated ALIA's 80 birthday in tremendous style at its annual Library and Information Week Award Night on 25 May. One of the highlights of the evening occurred when the 2017 ALIA NT Recognition Award was presented to the City of Darwin Libraries (CODL) for their Get That Job program. CODL, in collaboration with City of Darwin youth team provide jobs

skills training to the young people of Darwin, through the Get That Job program, which is designed for young people aged 15–21 years of age, to help them gain skills for employment. Get That Job endeavours to create real opportunity for young people to learn relevant skills and to target school and university students who are seeking employment over the holiday break, as well as young people who want to increase their knowledge with a view to obtaining long-term employment. CODL engages high-energy young people to coordinate these projects and provide dynamic direction to these youth-oriented programs. Providing key opportunities such as these aligns with City of Darwin's Youth Strategy goals that aim to build capacity and opportunity for work for young people in the Darwin community.

The Get That Job program continues its commitment to encourage young Indigenous people from local communities, such as the Bagot community, to participate. Finding a job can be a challenge for young people. They must determine the careers that are available, what their



Above: Robin Hempel receiving her 50-year pin from Jayshree Mamtora (ALIA NT Manager).

interests are and the skills they have or need to develop. Get That Job workshops help youth to get a sense of their interest and skills as well as gain employment experience and learn about employment opportunities.

The most frequently cited motivations were associated with future career aspirations. Other commonly cited motivations included professional support, qualifications and the need to gain employment or increase employability.

It will be important to further develop, provide, endorse and make the most of existing workshops to promote innovation and creativity in young people. CODL hopes that the workshops will initiate action, imagination and leadership to help young people realise their potential in the workplace. We want to step forward and make a difference.

CODL has, through this program, provided a valuable and innovative program to the youth of Darwin. Having identified a critical issue of youth unemployment and lack of work preparedness, the library team responded by providing training sessions in practical and relevant work-related skills. Recognising and supporting the City of Darwin's Youth Strategy goals, the team ensured inclusivity by targeting all local youth, including disadvantaged and local Indigenous communities.



ALIA revellers enjoy the 80th celebrations.

Participation rates were high and connecting participants with prospective employers was a major positive outcome.

The library team has also created, for the wider Darwin community, a new role for the library as a safe and valuable place to be.

Visit the ALIA Top End Facebook page for more photos and write-ups: <http://bit.ly/2uyUJHI>. 

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