



Miles Morgan Australia Excellence in Career Development in the Community Award 2009

Helen Strickland

Helen Strickland has long since recognised and promoted the important role that career development services play in building both the capacity of individuals and the communities in which they live.

She initiated, developed and now manages the Limestone Coast Career Development Centre in Mount Gambier, delivered in partnership with the Limestone Coast Regional Development Board and funded through South Australia Works, a state government initiative.

The Limestone Coast Career Development Centre, the first of its kind in South Australia, grew from Helen's concern that Mt Gambier did not provide services for people who needed support and guidance to plan their career moves.

Now, career development practitioners work directly with individuals who visit the centre. Their services are available to all members of the community, and practitioners pride themselves on the culture of care within which the centre operates.

A critical success factor of the centre is the strength of the relationships built with industry. Understanding the labour and skill needs of industry means that the centre is well placed to create links between individuals seeking to develop their skills or find work, and the needs of employers in the region.

"I feel very honoured to be recognised for the work we all do in this region to support individuals, groups and businesses in working out what they want to do with their working lives. The award recognises that our community is a leader in what we do. We are seen as providing a quality, innovative, successful, efficient and empowering program. That only happens when everyone works together so we can benefit from everyone's ideas and skills. Many individuals and organisations have been prepared to be inventive in finding solutions and I feel the award is recognition of our region," Helen said on, receiving the award.

Helen has also supported SA Works staff in Murraylands, Adelaide Hills, Whyalla, Port Augusta and Northern Adelaide to establish centres, thereby improving the availability of career services within other South Australian communities.

Miles Morgan is pleased to honour her achievements.