



Miles Morgan Australia Excellence in Career Development in the Community Award 2010

Monica Magann

Under the guidance of her employer, Southern Futures, Monica Magann coordinates an employment and training program for young people in Southern Adelaide called The Southern Edge Program. The program was originally conceived and supported by the Office for Youth and funded by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG)/DEEWR.

The Southern Edge Program provides career support to young people who have completed year 12, who are unemployed or underemployed, not in full time training or are taking a gap year. It also has a secondary capacity to provide career support to those who have not completed years 11 or 12, are unemployed or underemployed, not in full time training and struggling with getting on the right career track.

While not involved in developing the framework of the Southern Edge Program, Monica has overseen its roll-out and is directly involved in providing group training and individual one-on-one career development case management. A majority of her participants have left year 11 and are struggling with issues including a lack of finances, depression, anxiety, pressure from family and lack of career direction.

Monica uses creative, strength-based options to enhance the career development process. These include both individual and group career counseling, with the latter involving group excursions, which allow the participants to gain insight on career options, diversity and their own health and well-being. Monica's work with young people has been thoroughly hands-on and we commend her for her dedication to her participants over and above the usual demands of a career development practitioner. She has made it her focus to help young people on both a professional and a personal level, not only helping them find career direction, but also to overcome mental health issues, feelings of failure, family pressures and unhealthy personal habits. Her work has been life-changing for some of the participants, allowing them to take safe career risks and attain fuller career and life engagement.

Monica is also extensively involved in her community by hosting a career advice radio program on Fresh FM, contributing to career development discussions on ABC radio, and writing articles for the CareerOne section of the Advertiser newspaper. This is only a further demonstration of Monica's dedication to the career development field and helping young people reach their goals.