



Course a confidence boost



FIFTEEN Aboriginal and Islander Education Officers (AIEO) from around Fremantle and Rockingham in Western Australia

have experienced a boost to both their confidence and their formal qualifications.

The group, who are all employed at local government schools, completed a Certificate III in Education Support through the Challenger Institute of TAFE.

The workforce development program was over one day a week for 20 weeks and was supported by school principals, enabling participants the opportunity to advance their current knowledge, skills and competencies.

Challenger Institute Leadership

and Aboriginal Workforce Development Program manager Noelene Mantellato said the course provided participants with tools and training to use in the classroom and, importantly, to gain formal recognition in their workplace.

"This program has been such a positive experience for the participants who are both genders and of various ages and backgrounds," she said.

"The group have embraced the new learning and have really come out of their comfort zones. It's great to see such a diverse group of educators complete this first stage of the program."

Ms Mantellato said the institute hoped the group would continue into the Certificate IV course next year and, afterwards, perhaps

pursue further education such as a university teaching degree.

Course participant William Borsi said he was excited to use what he had learnt in the course.

"I am just about to present my pre-school students with a poster of the human body, complete with the names of body parts in both Noongar and English," he said.

"This will be a great interactive project for the class, who will learn through sound, sight and touch.

"The course has given me more than just a qualification; it has given me new-found confidence in my abilities and a real passion for teaching."

The training forms part of the Department of Education AIEO professional learning program.



Challenger Institute of Technology Certificate III in Education Support course participants and, right, participant William Borsi speaking about his experiences. *Photos: Leigh Blackwell.*