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# Media Release:

## High School students onsite exploring mining

Year nine 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.

The program aims to support young regional Australians to find out more about themselves, build career aspirations and engage with employers first-hand.

As part of the program's two-day schedule, 17 students were welcomed onsite at Premier Coal. They kicked off the session with a safety briefing, a rundown on the daily operations of a mine and they were taken on a tour of the Maintenance Workshop and viewed the open cut pit.

They then sat down with members of the Premier Coal team for a speed networking session where the students asked the team about their roles, what they enjoy about their job, the qualifications they needed to get into the role and gain a further understanding of career possibilities in the resources sector.

Diane Blount, The Smith Family's Learning for Life Team Leader for Collie and Bunbury was delighted the students could experience being miners for a day.

"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, broadening their minds about what careers may be possible for them.

"They also get to learn from others and gain a better understanding about options after school and expectations in the workplace.

"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 happy to have the students onsite.

“It is vital that students in our area experience the practical firsthand side of employment to really explore potential career opportunities.

“The students enjoyed investigating the workshop and seeing the machinery up close. They were also very engaged when they sat with our team, discussing mine life, their everyday roles and what it takes to work in a mine operation.

“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 hope the students got plenty out of spending time with our team, I know they enjoyed meeting them and discussing all things mining,” said Braedon.

Since 2004, Yancoal has grown to be one of Australia’s largest coal exporters: owning or operating nine producing mines across the country, employing over 4,300 Australians, contributing to the national economy, and investing in regional communities.

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