

MEDIA RELEASE

6 February 2023

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Pilbara is pleased to announce that the first skilled worker under the Pilbara Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) arrived in the City of Karratha at the beginning of January 2023.

Justine, a childcare worker, has arrived from Belgium.



Photo: L-R Chipo Zimba, Justine Balthazar, Nerida Kickett, Tony Simpson

“As an employer in the Pilbara region, we are thrilled to have successfully brought in a worker through the Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA). This demonstrates our commitment to supporting the local workforce and meeting the evolving demands of the region. Our new employee brings a wealth of skills and experience, and we are excited to have her on board. We appreciate the support of the government, RDA Pilbara, and the City of Karratha in making this process possible and look forward to continued success with our new team member” said Child Campus Karratha Manager, Chipo.

RDA Pilbara Chair, Nerida Kickett said “We are extremely pleased to be able to welcome Justine into our Karratha community. It is great to see the program delivering successful outcomes. This program doesn’t just benefit individual local businesses but provides benefits across our entire community and we look forward to welcoming many more keen workers to the Pilbara”.



RDA Pilbara Chief Executive Officer Tony Simpson said that the aim of the Pilbara DAMA was to support small businesses in the City of Karratha and Town of Port Hedland.

“Child Care Workers are still in high demand, and we’re excited to welcome Justine into our community; the first of many”.

The DAMA has achieved remarkable success to date, with 45 applications, totalling 185 nominations in the first 10 months. The DAMA has received widespread support from business leaders, local residents and government officials.

The success of the DAMA has not gone unnoticed. Several other regions have expressed interest in implementing similar agreements, recognizing the benefits they can bring to local communities.

RDA Pilbara is grateful for the support of all stakeholders involved in the successful implementation of the DAMA. The agreement will continue to play a vital role in attracting and retaining skilled workers in the designated area.

RDA Pilbara administers the process for accessing the DAMA. A joint funding model between RDA Pilbara, the City of Karratha and the Town of Port Hedland is subsidising the cost of applications to access the Pilbara DAMA. The funding model is helping reduce the financial burden on local businesses and encourage businesses to leverage the Pilbara DAMA.

More information: www.rdapilbara.org.au

