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A joint initiative by the Shire of Northam and Max Employment to provide training to indigenous people has been recognised in an awards program.

Training initiative praised

A JOINT program by the Shire of Northam and Max Employment to train indigenous people in companion animal welfare at CY O'Connor Institute is paying dividends.

The program was recently recognised as one of the top 10 WA local government projects at the 2011 Regional Achievement and Community Awards.

What originally started out as a class of 10 in a Max Employment Work for the Dole program has almost doubled, as participants join the program to gain better qualifications.

Northam Max Employment

business manager Venessa Miler said the aim of the course was to train participants for employment opportunities that were available or developing across the region.

"The course was a response to closing the gap of higher indigenous unemployment initially, but the Shire has just kept adding to it," Ms Miler said.

Shire of Northam chief executive Neville Hale said the success of the program had already prompted the Shire to investigate further expanding the course.

"The Shire sees the participants as having initiative and

the training they receive will stand them in good stead for any job vacancy that arises on completion of their course," he said.

"Though these opportunities will not be limited to the area of animal welfare, we see an opportunity for continued training for some in the field of ranger services, and we will be looking at ways to assist them to find employment with this Shire or our neighbouring shires.

"The Shire is impressed by the application and dedication that the participants have shown towards their training and work experience."