

Geraldton Meat Exports recognised for dedication

Embracing the needy

GERALDTON Meat Exports has been recognised on a national level for doing anything but “trimming the fat”.

The Moonyoonooka company has been recognised for its dedication to helping disadvantaged job seekers secure employment.

The company was today named as one of three national finalists for the Champion Employer of the Year Award in the National Employment Awards for Excellence.

At full capacity, the company employs 90 staff and exports to 23 countries worldwide.

Over the past 12 months, the company has employed

65 disadvantaged former job seekers from as far north as Northampton and west to Mullewa.

The judges were especially impressed with how the company embraced diversity, as well as their dedication to disadvantaged, isolated and Indigenous employees.

In 2008 this commitment saw Geraldton Meat Exports, together with The Salvation Army Employment Plus Geraldton, introduce a daily bus service to transport employees to and from work — a 180km round trip for some workers.

The company also employs two indigenous issues offi-

cers, who facilitate communication between indigenous employees, non-indigenous employees and management when cultural differences arise.

Geraldton Meat Exports will vie for the award against Cox Industries from Queensland and Victoria’s Hume Doors and Timber.

The National Champion Employer Award is sponsored by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

National Employment Services Association CEO Sally Sinclair said the awards recognised the special few who had achieved something

remarkable by helping millions of Australians into work.

“These awards are the earliest recognition of those dedicated professionals who are working in the new Job Services Australia system,” she said.

“There are few programs that truly acknowledge the direct and lasting impact that employment services have on improving the social fabric of our society.”

The winners will be announced at a gala dinner with the Federal Employment Participation Minister, Senator Mark Arbib, in Sydney on Thursday, August 27.