

MEA GRADUATES ANOTHER REGIONAL NSW RISING STAR

Following the recent announcement of three accomplished graduates, Meetings & Events Australia (MEA) is delighted to shine a spotlight on yet another exceptional student who has completed its Diploma of Event Management [SIT50316] course.

A fortunate recipient of a Destination NSW-funded MEA scholarship, Sara Wightman from Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council is the latest student to be awarded a Diploma of Event Management qualification by MEA.

Developed in partnership with [Destination NSW](#), this scholarship initiative was purposely crafted to facilitate distance learning for individuals living and working in regional areas of New South Wales. The program caters to those already contributing to the events field within their local community. The Diploma offers an unparalleled opportunity for those seeking to upskill through practical application of the Australian events industry's foundational concepts.

Peter McDonald, CEO of MEA, extended his congratulations to Sara on her accomplishment, stating, *“Being given an opportunity is one thing. Optimising it is another. Whilst MEA developed and delivered industry-founded content, and our partner Destination NSW funded her scholarship, only through commitment to learning and a passion for an events career has Sara completed her Diploma. For that, she deserves full congratulations. Sara’s choice to pursue the MEA qualification study path above other options will be what sets her apart in the workforce to her advantage. Following in quick succession to other recent student graduations, Sara’s achievement bears further witness to just how MEA is the premier educator for the Australian events industry.”*

Destination NSW CEO Steve Cox commented, *“Destination NSW is delighted to have had the opportunity to support the aspirations of more than 60 event professionals since 2018 through its partnership with MEA. It has been a key plank of our strategy to grow the contribution of business events to the visitor economy of regional NSW”.*

Sara recommends the course for anyone looking to formalise their own event skills, *“I have been implementing some of the theories and templates already with the team. I have also shared my learnings with the broader event community in my area.”* Sara said. *“The support [students] get from MEA is like nothing else I have received in adult learning and is adaptable for people who work in the industry. MEA gets what it is like with the swings and roundabouts of event management and juggling study with working full time.”*

Whether an aspiring event professional or someone looking to enhance their existing skills, MEA's Diploma of Event Management [SIT50316] opens doors to a world of exciting opportunities in the vibrant events industry. People with an objective of becoming a qualified, confident and accomplished event manager just like Sara can find more information on the MEA website: <https://bit.ly/MEAdiploma>

<MEDIA RELEASE ENDS>

About MEA: Meetings & Events Australia is the collective voice of the events industry in Australia. With the largest network of event professionals in Australia, MEA has been supporting the careers of our members and advancing the interests of the event industry since 1975. MEA's membership represents the largest community of businesses and individuals across the Australian events industry that employs more than 229,000 professionals who stage, produce, manage, support and supply the 480,000+ events held in Australia annually. These events include major events, festivals, conferences, meetings, exhibitions, launches, seminars, special events, community events and much more for associations, corporations, government and the general public.

Media Contact:

Meetings & Events Australia

Claire Watson | cwatson@mea.org.au