



Department of
Education and Training

Media Statement

Attention: News Editor / Chief of Staff

07/05/09

Hammers, knives and scissors down

Time is running out for the best of Western Australia's training industry to put down their tools and pick up their pens to enter the 2009 WA Training Awards.

Department of Education and Training Director General Sharyn O'Neill said there were thousands of dollars in prizes to be shared across 12 categories for apprentices, trainees, vocational students, trainers, training providers, organisations and employers.

"These awards recognise our State's finest in the training sector, and past winners of the WA Training Awards have gone on to great success," Ms O'Neill said.

"Entries are welcomed from all industries. Last year's finalists included horticulturalists, florists, youth workers, apprentice light vehicle mechanics and bricklayers.

"The nomination period will close at 5pm on Friday 22 May, so I urge all interested people to apply now."

Last year's WA Apprentice of the Year cabinetmaker Ashlee Scinocco of Thornlie will be off on a trip of a lifetime because of her involvement in the awards.

"Winning WA Apprentice of the Year has opened many doors for me," Ashlee said.

"It has given me the opportunity to attend an exclusive tradeshow - the Salone Internazionale del Mobile in Milan, Italy, next year.

"The prestigious international furniture trade show has a number of restricted access areas, and because of my involvement in the WA Training Awards, I will have access to all those areas.

"I'll also have an amazing opportunity to do a trade course in Milan working with master craftsmen."

The Swan TAFE graduate said even applying for the award improved her confidence and encouraged her to extend her learning.

"Entering the awards seems like a lot of work, but it is worth it," Ashlee said.

"Completion of the application can go on your resume and, in these difficult economic times, it could mean the difference between getting a job or not.

"The WA Training Awards have shown me anything is possible. Now I know I have the ability to start my own business and next year I will start taking steps to achieve that goal," she said.

Application forms can be downloaded from the website at: <http://www.trainingawards.wa.det.edu.au> or call: 9264 4980.

The WA Training Awards 2009 categories are:

- **WA Apprentice of the Year** sponsored by ApprentiCentre
- **WA Trainee of the Year** sponsored by GESB
- **WA Vocational Student of the Year** sponsored by the Australian Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
- **WA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year** sponsored by The Graham (Polly) Farmer Foundation
- **WA School-based Apprentice of the Year** sponsored by the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre
- **WA Trainer of the Year** sponsored by the Training Accreditation Council
- **WA Training Initiative** sponsored by The Chamber of Minerals and Energy Western Australia
- **WA VET in Schools Award** sponsored by Apprenticeships Australia
- **WA Employer of the Year** sponsored by the Australian Institute of Management
- **WA Small Business of the Year** sponsored by the Australian Institute of Management
- **WA Small Training Provider of the Year** sponsored by the Australian Council for Private Education and Training
- **WA Large Training Provider of the Year** sponsored by *The Sunday Times*.

Winners of the WA Training Awards 2009 will be announced at a presentation ceremony at the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre on Friday 4 September.

Winners could go on to compete against the best in Australia at the Australian Training Awards in Canberra on Thursday 19 November.

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