

Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts
The Honourable Rod Welford
19/07/2008

Central Queensland's top training achievers recognised

Central Queensland's best employers, apprentices, trainees, vocational students and training providers were tonight named as winners in the Queensland Training Awards' regional finals.

Education and Training Minister Rod Welford said the event, one of six regional finals being held across the state, showcased the strength of local industries and the people working in them.

"Gaining vocational skills has never been more important, and Queenslanders have more opportunities than ever before to access world-class training in a range of exciting and rewarding industries," Mr Welford said.

"Having skilled workers across a host of professions and industries is vital to our state's ongoing success, and these awards show the great work that is guaranteeing our future through outstanding achievements in workplaces, schools, colleges and training institutions.

"In a time of skill shortages more Queenslanders are taking up apprenticeships and traineeships than any other state in Australia, so these awards showcase the cream of the crop."

Central Queensland winners will progress to the state finals at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on Thursday 11 September 2008, when recipients in a further four categories will also be presented. State winners can enter the Australian Training Awards in Darwin in November.

The Queensland Training Awards, now in their 47th year, are run by the Queensland Government's Department of Education, Training and the Arts. For more information on the Queensland Training Awards, visit www.qta.qld.gov.au.

The Central Queensland regional winners are:

- Apprentice of the Year, sponsored by GAGAL Apprentices and Trainees, and Capricornia Training Company - Shona Daveson, Certificate IV in Aeroskills (Mechanical), Longreach Aircraft Maintenance, from Longreach;
- Trainee of the Year, sponsored by BUSY AT WORK Apprenticeships Services - Lisa Hanna, Certificate IV in Business, Queensland Transport, from Frenchville;
- Vocational Student of the Year, sponsored by Queensland Alumina Limited - Rebecca Rendalls, Diploma of Nursing (Pre-enrolment), Central Queensland Institute of TAFE, from North Rockhampton;
- School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year, sponsored by MRAEL Limited -

Brayden Smith, Certificate III in Engineering (Mechanical Trade), MRAEL Limited, from Moranbah;

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year, sponsored by Ergon Energy - Anthony Jansen, Certificate IV in Youth Work, Central Queensland Institute of TAFE, from North Rockhampton;

- Small Employer of the Year, sponsored by NRG Gladstone Operating Services Pty Ltd - EHS Manufacturing at Mackay; and

- Employer of the Year, sponsored by Stanwell Corporation - Queensland Alumina Limited at Gladstone.

Media contact: Marnie Stitz or Emma Clarey on 3237 1000