

LOCAL TRAINING LEADERS ANNOUNCED

A total of 125 of Queensland's best employers, apprentices, trainees and vocational students are in the running for their industry's most prestigious honour as regional finalists in the 2009 Queensland Training Awards.

Education and Training Minister Geoff Wilson said finalists were competing across seven categories in six regional finals, showcasing outstanding vocational and educational achievements that have skilled workers and strengthened local industries.

"As Queensland faces the global economic downturn a skilled workforce will become more important than ever before," Mr Wilson said.

"In workplaces, schools, colleges and training institutions Queenslanders are striving to keep our skills and knowledge at the cutting edge, across a host of industries that are integral to our daily lives.

"These awards show the strength of efforts at a local level and the economic benefits this brings."

Mr Wilson announced the following venues and dates for the regional finals, where 42 winners across seven categories in six regions, will be announced across the state.

- Central Queensland regional presentation ceremony, Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre, July 18, 2009;
- Wide Bay Sunshine Coast regional presentation ceremony, Caloundra RSL Club, July 18, 2009;
- Brisbane North regional presentation ceremony, Old Museum, Brisbane, July 22, 2009;
- Brisbane South and Gold Coast regional presentation ceremony, Dreamworld, July 24, 2009;
- North Queensland regional presentation ceremony, Riverway Arts Centre, Thuringowa Central, July 25, 2009; and
- South West Queensland regional presentation ceremony, Rumours International, Toowoomba, July 31, 2009.

Regional winners will progress to the state final in September 2009 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, where finalists in a further four categories will also be presented. State winners will have the chance to enter the Australian Training Awards in Canberra in November.

The Queensland Training Awards, which are now in their 48th year, are run by the Queensland Government's Department of Education and Training.

A full list of regional finalists is available on the Queensland Training Awards website www.qta.qld.gov.au.

Media contact: Jo Crompton or Emma Parnell on 3237 1000
June 23, 2009