

MEDIA RELEASE

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ACPET congratulates winners of 2014 Australian Training Awards

Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) chief executive Rod Camm has congratulated the winners and finalists of the peak national awards for the vocational education and training (VET) sector, the Australian Training Awards, held in Adelaide tonight.

“It’s with great pleasure that I acknowledge all of tonight’s winners for their achievements,” Mr Camm said. “I’d especially like to congratulate the winning ACPET members Seafood Training Tasmania and Train 2 Learn, and all seven ACPET members who were finalists, for their outstanding contributions to the sector.”

ACPET member winners were:

Seafood Training Tasmania – Small Training Provider of the Year

Train 2 Learn – Disability Training Initiative Award

“These awards are an important opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our sector and acknowledge the people doing the work in the classrooms and behind the scenes who, every day, demonstrate their commitment to learning excellence, innovation and quality,” Mr Camm said.

Since 1994, the Australian Training Awards have recognised individuals, businesses and registered training organisations for their contribution to skilling Australia.

This year, there are 18 award categories, including the inaugural Disability Training Initiative Award, which recognises employers who demonstrate outstanding achievement in the provision of nationally certified training to staff with disability.

“Around 1.88 million students undertake vocational education and training across the country,” Mr Camm said. “That’s one in eight adults between the ages of 15 and 64 taking steps to learn new skills, boost their employment, transition to a new job or up-skill in the job they already have.”

“Awards nights like tonight remind us all why we choose to work in the industry and showcase the outstanding work being done in quality VET institutions both public and private across the country,” he said.

Full details of ACPET member winners and finalists are listed in the attachment below. For a full list of winners visit www.australiantrainingawards.gov.au

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ACPET member winners:

Small Training Provider of the Year

Seafood Training Tasmania (TAS)

Seafood Training Tasmania (STT) is the largest training provider to Tasmania's seafood industry. Since commencing operations in 1986 as the Fishing Industry Training Board, STT has grown to offer 20 nationally recognised courses to more than 600 students annually. Based in Hobart, STT employs nine permanent staff and more than 20 trainer / assessors. STT offers certificate and diploma level courses in aquaculture, seafood processing, fishing operations and maritime operations. STT provides input to the Seafood Industry and Maritime training packages. Further to this, where a need is identified, STT develops and attains accreditation for a short course and then seeks to have this included in the training package. Learners are able to select the modules of the training package that best suit their vocational pathway. As a result of relationships with local schools and Trade Training Centre, STT is able to offer Certificates I and II in Aquaculture to school students.

Disability Training Initiative Award

Train 2 Learn (VIC)

Train 2 Learn (T2L) has championed industry-led qualifications in hospitality and warehousing since its establishment in 2011. Through collaboration with TAFEs and private training providers across Victoria, T2L's industry-led, workplace-based learning education programme supports individual learning pathways. T2L works with Australian Apprenticeships Centres and group training organisations to modify workplaces to accommodate students with a range of disabilities, cultivating inclusivity and participation acceptance. More than 300 clients with disability have been supported to return to work. T2L's youth programme provides career planning transition for clients in Years 9 to 12, and a supported programme is in place for special needs students with complex disabilities in Year 13. This programme has a completion rate of 90 per cent at the Certificate II level and 80 per cent at Certificate III. T2L has created links with education providers in South Australia, Queensland, Western Australia and New South Wales, and is looking at expanding its scope of services.

ACPET member finalists:

Australian school-based Apprentice of the Year

Liam May – Advanced Training International Incorporated (NT)

Having been fascinated with lighting and how things work since he was a young boy, Liam May's mother believes that he was born to be an electrician. His interest in the field grew throughout his school years, and he commenced his Australian School-based Apprenticeship shortly after his 16th birthday. Combining his Years 11 and 12 school work with his Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician studies at ATI and work at Electric NT, Liam is enjoying consistently strong results across all levels of his study. He is the youngest person in his classes at ATI and works throughout the school holidays to stay on top of his apprenticeship. Liam hopes to establish his own electrical contracting company and is learning about renewable energies and energy efficient products. He has won two business and enterprise awards and is taking a hiatus from soccer to focus on his studies.

International Training Provider of the Year

Charlton Brown® (QLD)

Charlton Brown® specialises in the provision of VET in the field of community services, offering accredited and non-accredited courses including nannying, early childhood education and care, aged care, home and community care, disability, youth work, community services and youth justice. Of its 1500 onshore students annually, approximately 30 per cent are international. Charlton Brown® organises paid and unpaid work experience in both the national and international markets for its students to ensure they are work ready upon graduation. Charlton Brown® arranges study tours of two to three weeks duration for potential international students, allowing them to stay with a local family whilst studying and experiencing the local culture. Charlton Brown® also runs a working holiday programme, which gives international students the opportunity to work and study around Australia. International students are also provided language support and placement opportunities in local community services facilities.

VET Trainer of the Year

Carmen Gumley, Avidity Training (TAS)

Through her work as a trainer at Avidity Training and Development, Carmen Gumley is making a real difference to the lives of her students, especially those who are disadvantaged or disengaged. Carmen has developed and implemented Avidity's Access and Equity Program, through which she provides support and encouragement to students accessing learning opportunities to assist them with re-engagement and goal-setting for both their learning and work. Carmen was instrumental in the implementation of the On Our Patch programme for pregnant young parents. The programme was fully subscribed with more than 90 per cent of participants completing and identifying career goals and pathways to further education. Carmen's exceptional interpersonal and communication skills and commitment to her role have allowed her to develop a strong network of partners for the programme and, through her links with community partners, she has been able to access those members of the community who may not have ordinarily considered training.

Disability Training Initiative Award

Activ Pathways Western Australia (WA)

Activ Pathways offers programmes to people living with disability and the disability sector workforce. Seven of Activ Pathways' Certificate I and II qualifications are delivered, predominantly, to people living with disability. Since 2009, Activ Pathways has delivered accredited and non-accredited training to more than 5000 people, including 1600 living with disability. The completion rate across all programmes is 97 per cent.

Training is delivered formally and informally, with a focus on practical assessments tailored to the workplace. Students demonstrate competency through demonstration, with programmes tailored to meet the unique needs of students. Activ Pathways is the only disability enterprise in Australia to deliver the Certificate I in Leadership Development. Also available are the Certificate I in Transport and Logistics, the Certificate II in Horticulture and the Certificate I in Manufacturing. Activ Pathways also provide traineeships, offering more than 45 in 2014. This includes school-based traineeships for the Certificate II in Community Services and Certificate III in Disability qualifications.

Small Training Provider of the Year

Marr Mooditj Training Inc (WA)

Committed to the training and development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the vital field of health care, Marr Mooditj Training (MMT) has been delivering training for 30 years. MMT works with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to empower them to make health care decisions and to employ culturally appropriate methods to improve the health of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. MMT offers a range of courses at the Certificate IV and diploma level in the fields of nursing, mental health and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander primary health care practice.

MMT has recently expanded its training facilities and offers clinical simulations in realistic primary health care settings. Further to this, MMT is seeking to establish an accredited community primary health clinic on its premises, which will provide students with a functioning health care environment for the application and assessment of skills and knowledge. MMT previously won this Award in 2006.