

Minister, I am aware that the achievements of Western Australia's vocational sector were recently celebrated at the 18th annual Western Australian Training Awards.

Can you please update the House on the success of the participants in our state's premier apprenticeship and trainee awards?

- **Mr Speaker, firstly I would like to acknowledge the attendance of several of the winners from the event in the Chamber here today.**
- Supporting apprenticeships, training and workforce development is a priority of the Liberal National Government. Since being elected, we have committed \$1.9 billion in actual training expenditure. This unprecedented investment in training includes a government guarantee to fund all apprenticeships in trade areas and all eligible traineeships.
- As a consequence of this commitment, the number of apprentices and trainees in Western Australia reached an all-time high of more than 46,000 at 31 July 2012.
- The best and brightest of these apprentices and trainees, their trainers and the organisations and employers who support them were recognized and celebrated recently at the prestigious Western Australian Training Awards, which are hosted by the Department of Training and Workforce Development and the State Training Board.
- Mr Speaker, being new to the training and workforce development portfolio, this year was the first time I had attended the awards presentation event, and I was most impressed by the outstanding quality of the nominees and the winners.
- Western Australia has a world class training system and this was reflected in the world class standard of this year's winners.
- The winners, chosen from more than 200 entrants, include students who have excelled in their chosen field to employers, trainers and training providers who have introduced innovative practices to support apprentices and trainees.
- **I take this opportunity to congratulate these outstanding individuals:**
 - **WA Apprentice of the Year, Samuel Goodall;**
 - **WA Trainee of the Year, Nicola Howe;**
 - **WA Vocational Student of the Year, Stephen Moore;**
 - **WA School-based Apprentice of the Year, Timothy Gossage;**

- WA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year, Nathan McGuire;
- WA Trainer of the Year, Guy Truss.
- And the winner of the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Training Award, Maria Lima Villahermosa. *Venezuela*
- Mr Speaker I further congratulate these outstanding organisations:
 - WA Small Business of the Year, Ceiling Solutions;
 - The winners of the VET in Schools Excellence Award, MPA Skills and John Forrest Secondary College;
 - And the winner of the Training Initiative Award, JSW Training and Community Services.
- Mr Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the following individuals who are in the chamber today who also won awards;
 - Nicola Howe from PoolWerx, the WA Trainee of the Year;
 - Allan Williams, the Managing Director of the Australian College of Applied Education, winner of the International Training Provider of the Year;
 - Jill Jamieson, the Acting CEO, Challenger Institute of Technology, winner of the WA Large Training Provider of the Year; and
 - Linda Engledow and Simon Gazia from Labtech Training Pty Ltd, winner of the WA Small Training Provider of the Year.
 - David Gorman, Learning and Development Manager, WA Employer of the Year, Main Roads WA;
 - Judy Silsbury from John Forrest Secondary College and Wayne Morling from MPA Skills – winners of the Vocational Education in Schools Excellence Award.
- Several of these winners will compete at the Australian Training Awards, to presented in Melbourne in November.
- Mr Speaker, as you can see by the range of winners, which includes individuals, State Training providers, private sector training providers, schools,

small businesses and government agencies, the training sector is incredibly diverse, but most importantly, all parts of it are committed to building a skilled workforce for Western Australia, and ensuring the future of our training sector remains strong.

- On behalf of the WA Government, I am pleased to make this public congratulation of the very deserving winners of this year's WA Training Awards.