

WORLDSKILLS AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Statement by Minister for Education and Training

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Minister for Education and Training) [9.01 am]: I am pleased to inform the house that Western Australian trainees and apprentices have delivered an impressive result at the recent WorldSkills Australia National Championships held in Sydney on 2 to 5 June 2018. The WorldSkills championships showcase the talent of apprentices, trainees and other students aged 16 to 24 years who compete for the title of national champion. This year's competition attracted hundreds of competitors, who took part in competitions in 50 trade and skill categories over three days. It provides a unique opportunity for young people to test their vocational skills against the best across Australia.

Almost half of the Western Australian team members won medals, with the state excelling in the secondary school categories. The 17 school competitors, who are all following a vocational education and training pathway, won 11 medals across eight categories. Their impressive performance resulted in Western Australia winning the Vocational Education and Training in Schools perpetual shield for the best performing state—the first time the shield has ever been won by a state other than New South Wales. National medal winners may now be considered for selection in the 2019 Team Australia Skillaroots to compete in the forty-fifth WorldSkills competition in Russia.

It is encouraging to see Western Australian apprentices and trainees performing so strongly at a time when maximising training opportunities and diversifying our skills base is a key focus of the McGowan Labor government. These young competitors represent the future of Western Australia. Their commitment to their training and performance during the competition was exceptional. I congratulate each of the 51 individuals who represented our state.