

AUSTRALIAN TRAINING AWARDS

Statement by Minister for Training and Workforce Development

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Training and Workforce Development) [12.12 pm]: I am delighted to share with the house today the success enjoyed by Western Australian finalists at the 2015 Australian Training Awards held in Hobart last Thursday. The Australian Training Awards recognise the outstanding achievements of registered training organisations, employers, practitioners and individuals in the national training system. I was excited to attend the awards in person and to cheer on the Western Australian team, which was strongly represented by finalists in six individual categories and four organisational categories. This is a true reflection of the exceptional talent that exists within our state's training sector.

Today I am proud to report that four of our finalists were recognised as the nation's best and were announced as category winners at the awards. Tied with New South Wales, this was the most of all states and territories represented at the awards, and it demonstrates that our training sector is leading the way. Jared Stone was named the best apprentice in Australia, winning the Australian Apprentice of the Year Award. A keen musician, Jared's training journey started with him studying music, during which he developed an interest in the technical aspects of sound recording and playback and the associated electrical theory behind them: This led him to complete a certificate III in electrotechnology electrician at Polytechnic West, while carrying out an apprenticeship with Western Power. Now a qualified electrician, Jared's goal is to continue his education and training in the field. After meeting Jared when he won Apprentice of the Year at the Western Australian Training Awards, it was clear to me that he is a young man with ambition and charisma. I look forward to working with Jared over the next year as he fulfils his obligations as ambassador for the awards in inspiring the next cohort of exceptional graduates in this state. Sandra Van Der Gaag, who trained at Challenger Institute of Technology, was awarded the Australian Trainee of the Year Award. Having already completed a degree in engineering, Sandra undertook a certificate III in process plant operations to gain technical and hands-on experience for working in process plant operations in the oil and gas sector. Since completing her traineeship with Apprenticeship Australia, hosted by Woodside, Sandra has gained a permanent full-time position with Woodside.

Two Western Australian employers were also recognised for their training excellence. Crown Perth won the Employer of the Year Award for its wide range of customised training programs that equip its employees for short or long-term careers with the company. Crown Perth is one of Western Australia's largest single-site employers and has a great record in providing high-quality training and equity programs across a range of disciplines within the hotel and tourism industries. Another outstanding employer and trainer, Clinipath Pathology, won the Australian Apprenticeships Employer Award for the quality on-the-job training provided to its employees. Clinipath Pathology employs 780 staff, including 93 trainees, 70 per cent of whom are mature age. Both of these companies see the value in providing quality training and development opportunities for their employees and it was fantastic to see this acknowledged on the national stage.

One again, my congratulations to the finalists and winners for doing Western Australia proud and proving that we have the best training system in the country.