



Australian Government

# AUSTRALIAN TRAINING AWARDS

## REAL STORIES. REAL ACHIEVEMENTS.



### INDI CLARKE

#### 2016 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Award recognises the achievement of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander student who displays a strong understanding and knowledge of the vocational education and training system and demonstrates the relevance of lifelong learning for themselves and their community.

A couple of years ago Indi Clarke, a proud Aboriginal man from the Muthi Muthi and Lardil people, would not have recognised the man he has become today.

"I had lost my way and really wasn't doing much with my life. I had a job in retail but that wasn't what I wanted my future to be. I wanted to be working for my community. But to do that I needed some training and some skills so I'd be in a position to help people," said Indi.

Proof of the success Indi has had in doing just that can be seen in the 'amazing' 18 months he's had, representing his community through his participation in leadership and political events, and receiving a string of awards, most recently the 2016 Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Award at the Australian Training Awards.

"I still have to pinch myself that this is happening to me," laughed Indi.

"I was lucky enough to discover what the VET sector had to offer and that is what saved me. My teachers cared about finding the best way for me to learn—I wasn't just given a book and sent on my way—they walked the journey with me. I am very grateful I was smart enough to leap at the chance to make the most of the opportunities I was given through my studies."

Indi is very appreciative of the Australian Training Awards and the opportunity the award ceremony presented to meet other highly deserving nominees.

"The awards help to break down the stigma that VET is secondary to university and are instrumental in closing the gap between the two. The award ceremony was a great showcase for what could be achieved through VET and I felt really humbled to meet the other nominees, all of whom had put in a lot of hard work and achieved so much. I came away inspired, empowered and reinvigorated."

# ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN TRAINING AWARDS

Each year, the Australian Training Awards recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements of Australian Apprentices, vocational students, training practitioners, businesses, secondary schools, industry and registered training organisations for their contribution to skilling Australia.

The majority of the awards are the culmination of the state and territory awards programs with winners from each state and territory eligible to compete at the national level in aligned categories.

There are also seven award categories available by entering directly to the Australian Training Awards.

## Individual

- Lifetime Achievement Award (**direct entry**)
- National Achievement Award (**direct entry**)
- Excellence in Language, Literacy and Numeracy Practice Award (**direct entry**)
- Australian School-based Apprentice of the Year Award
- Vocational Student of the Year Award
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Award
- Australian Apprentice (Trainee) of the Year Award
- Australian Apprentice of the Year Award
- VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year Award

## Business

- Australian Apprenticeships – Employer Award (**direct entry**)
- Small Employer of the Year Award (**direct entry**)
- Medium Employer of the Year Award
- Large Employer of the Year Award
- Industry Collaboration Award

## Registered Training Organisation

- School Pathways to VET Award (**direct entry**)
- International Training Provider of the Year Award (**direct entry**)
- Small Training Provider of the Year Award
- Large Training Provider of the Year Award

**DISCOVER MORE OF THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF APPLYING FOR AN AUSTRALIAN TRAINING AWARD BY DOWNLOADING THE WHY APPLY FACT SHEET OR VISIT THE WHY AND HOW TO ENTER PAGE OF THE AUSTRALIAN TRAINING AWARDS WEBSITE.**

## WHY APPLY?

The awards offer participants Australia-wide recognition for exceptional training outcomes and an opportunity to become known as the best-of-the-best, nationally.

**For individuals**, the awards can open up networks and career opportunities within the business sector and provide you with the opportunity to become a national ambassador for skills to promote the vocational education and training sector at a national level.

**For businesses and registered training organisations**, the awards can propel you into the national spotlight, positioning you as a front runner in skills and workforce development and leader in best practice. This will set you apart from the competition and make you an employer or registered training organisation of choice.

