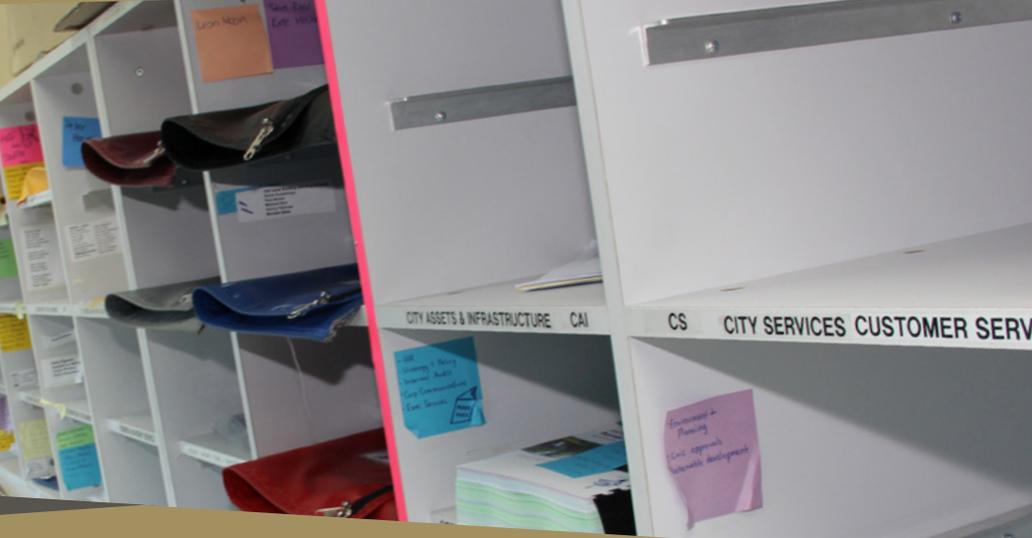




Australian Government

AUSTRALIAN TRAINING AWARDS

REAL STORIES. REAL ACHIEVEMENTS.



ASHLEE HODSON

2013 AUSTRALIAN APPRENTICE (TRAINEE) OF THE YEAR

QUALIFICATION:
CERTIFICATE III IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

REGISTERED TRAINING ORGANISATION:
TAFE NSW – SOUTH WESTERN SYDNEY INSTITUTE

The Australian Apprentice (Trainee) of the Year Award recognises the most outstanding Australian Apprentice (Trainee) in Australia.

State or territory training award winners of this category are automatically finalists for the Australian Training Awards and will compete at the national level.

Sydney resident, Ashlee Hodson is a corporate support officer with the Bankstown City Council after following a career pathway that saw her win the 2013 Australian Apprentice (Trainee) of the Year Award.

"I could not have asked for anything more from my traineeship and I do feel really humbled to have won this national award – it is great recognition for me and an absolute honour," Ashlee said.

A few years ago, Ashlee started a teaching degree at university but decided she preferred a more hands-on style of learning.

When her father alerted her to an advertisement in the paper for a trainee position with the Bankstown City Council, she jumped at the chance to learn

a professional discipline, and get paid at the same time.

"I had placed university studies on hold and took up a casual position in retail," Ashlee said.

"At that time, I didn't feel confident in my abilities but, after enrolling in TAFE and starting the traineeship, I slowly began to feel more sure of what I was doing, and where I wanted to go in the future. Now that I have completed my studies, I feel there is nothing I cannot achieve!" Ashlee said.

The 22-year-old has now completed a Certificate III and Certificate IV in Business Administration at TAFE NSW – South Western Sydney Institute and has recently started a Certificate IV in Human Resources.

With almost three nationally recognised qualifications under her belt, she is confident vocational education and training was the best choice for her. Now as an Australian Apprenticeships Ambassador for the Australian Government, Ashlee is keen to ensure others in her community know about the opportunities available too.

"Apprenticeships and traineeships offer so many career possibilities – and the professional training you receive in the vocational education and training sector is second to none," Ashlee said.

Ashlee is now undertaking a Bachelor of Arts at university and plans to continue her career in local government.

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**)
- 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
- National Achievement Award (**direct entry**)
- Excellence in Language, Literacy and Numeracy Practice Award (**direct entry**)

Business

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

Registered Training Organisation

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

* Applications for this award are made directly to the Australian Training Awards in all states and territories except Western Australia where applications must be made direct to the WA Training Awards.

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

WHY APPLY?

The awards offer its 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 which sets you apart from the competition and makes you an employer, or registered training organisation, of choice.

