



Australian Government

AUSTRALIAN  
TRAINING  
AWARDS

REAL STORIES.  
REAL ACHIEVEMENTS.

AUSTRALIAN  
TRAINING  
AWARDS



## PHILADELPHIA HUGHES

### 2015 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDENT OF THE YEAR

**QUALIFICATION:**  
CERTIFICATE IV IN  
FRONTLINE MANAGEMENT  
**REGISTERED TRAINING  
ORGANISATION:**  
CHARLES DARWIN  
UNIVERSITY

The 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.

Philadelphia Hughes believes that winning the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Award in the 2015 Australian Training Awards is the highlight of her life so far.

"To receive such recognition for all the hard work and effort is wonderful, especially when it's for something I love doing. It also means I can get my story out to the wider community to tell others that they can do this as well."

Philadelphia had a job but hadn't finished high school. Wanting to progress her career, she enrolled in a Certificate IV in Frontline Management with Charles Darwin University (CDU). Going back to study was very daunting, but Philadelphia says she was immediately able to start putting to use the skills and confidence she was gaining.

"The communication skills I learned helped me in my volunteer work as Aboriginal Student Ambassador at CDU, as well as in my role as a Lifeline telephone volunteer crisis supporter."

CDU awarded Philadelphia Most Outstanding Student in her class.

She says that the Australian Training Awards are essential to getting the word out about VET.

"They help show how VET provides so many career pathways. VET gives people the opportunity to start or further their careers from any point, even if they haven't finished school. Because it's competency based it gives you what you need to step into a workplace, or you can do it in conjunction with your work."

"The stories of the amazing people I met at the awards keep inspiring me in my own life."

Philadelphia is now undertaking a degree through the Northern Territory Public Sector Indigenous Cadetship Support Program, something she credits to her first qualification.

"Without that, I wouldn't have had the skills or confidence to leave my job and do this."

Passionate about Indigenous health equality, Philadelphia's ultimate career goal is to work with children in need within Aboriginal communities of the Northern Territory. Her personal motto is 'Never stay comfortable, keep striving and stay hungry for knowledge'.

# 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

\* 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.

\*\* Businesses registered in Queensland, Tasmania and the ACT must apply for the Small Employer of the Year Award through the relevant 2016 state or territory training awards. Businesses registered in New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria, Western Australia and the Northern Territory must apply directly to the Australian 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 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.

