The Australian School-based Apprentice of the Year Award is presented to a student who is undertaking a Certificate II or above qualification as a part-time Australian School-based Apprentice. The Award recognises the student's commitment to their formal studies at school, and in the workplace.

For someone who had lost his way as a young person at school, Leuwin Andrew is now someone who's really going places. Named the Australian School-based Apprentice of the Year in the 2016 Australian Training Awards, Leuwin believes the award will help him to not only further his career in Australia but also internationally.

"Being an ambassador for vocational education and training is an honour and a privilege," said Leuwin.

"While I'm now in a great position to raise awareness of the great opportunities VET has to offer, the award will also be a great career booster for me, not just in Australia but internationally;" For Leuwin, finding that he could do an Australian Apprenticeship while at school stopped him from 'wasting' his life.

"I'd got to Year 10 and had no passion, no drive, no reason to go to school and no clue about what I wanted to do. Then I heard about apprenticeships and it was the biggest thing to ever happen to me. All my life I'd loved cooking, and by doing a Commercial Cookery apprenticeship I could indulge something I loved and gain a qualification while still at school."

Determination, persistence and passion have now helped Leuwin get where he is today, as an apprentice with Windy Point Restaurant in Adelaide.

"I harassed the poor people at Windy Point into giving me an interview and then I harassed them into giving me a job," laughed Leuwin.

"They played a big role in my success and I'm really pleased that my award also reflects well on them as an employer that cares about apprentices."

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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

**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

**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.

**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.**