



Australian Government

AUSTRALIAN TRAINING AWARDS

REAL STORIES. REAL ACHIEVEMENTS.



JOSHUA LODGE

2014 AUSTRALIAN APPRENTICE (TRAINEE) OF THE YEAR

QUALIFICATION:

**CERTIFICATE IV IN
LABORATORY TECHNIQUES**

REGISTERED TRAINING ORGANISATION:

**TAFE NSW -
HUNTER 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.

Joshua Lodge's plans to study chemical engineering at university were deferred when he decided to gain some practical understanding first. Enrolling in a Certificate IV in Laboratory Techniques at TAFE NSW's Hunter Institute, Joshua secured a traineeship with Origin Energy. Completing the theory component of the certificate in the first year, Joshua then enrolled in (and completed) a Diploma of Chemistry. Rewarded for exceptional outcomes in his training, Joshua won the 2014 Australian Apprentice (Trainee) of the Year Award at the Australian Training Awards.

"Winning the award was a very humbling experience and a great way to top off my traineeship. It highlights all the time and effort people have put into my training and how valuable vocational education and training is.

The award is also good recognition for both my host company Origin Energy and group training organisation Hunter Valley Training Company," Joshua said.

While still undertaking his traineeship, Joshua enrolled in a Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical) at Newcastle University.

"I'm very happy I started with a traineeship as my learning pathway instead of jumping straight into university. It has allowed me to gain industry experience straight away which can be difficult to obtain. I've also been able to undertake my own projects and work on a large variety of water treatment plants which has been the highlight for me," Josh said.

Having now completed his traineeship, Joshua is mentoring two trainees who will work in Origin Energy's

chemical department and has secured full-time employment there.

"The Australian Training Awards is a great way to promote vocational education and training. The publicity of the awards inspires the next generation to look into a traineeship or apprenticeship whilst also recognising organisations that are achieving incredible goals around the country," Josh said.

Josh also represented Hunter Valley Training Company at Group Training Australia's Today's Skills Tomorrow's Leaders programme in 2013, as well as winning GTA's Trainee of the Year and Laboratory Techniques Trainee of the Year awards. Joshua has recently been appointed as an Australian Apprenticeships Ambassador for the Australian 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.

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BENEFITS OF APPLYING
FOR AN AUSTRALIAN
TRAINING AWARD
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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.

