

## Question on Notice

No. 1529

Asked on 8 September 2011

**Ms Nelson-Carr** asked the Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining (Minister Hinchliffe) —

### QUESTION:

With reference to the award ceremony for the Queensland Training Awards held on 2 September, will the Minister inform the House of the importance of this initiative by the Queensland Government?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question and commitment to the training and upskilling of Queenslanders, particularly throughout the Townsville region.

The Queensland Training Awards have been rewarding excellence in training for 50 years, with the first award ceremony taking place back in 1962.

The 2011 Queensland Training award ceremony celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the awards and attracted more than 730 guests representing finalists, training providers, schools, employers and industry.

The awards are Queensland's most prestigious industry event and showcase the great work of our employers, schools and training institutions across a diverse range of industries from construction through to tourism.

Winners announced at the Queensland award ceremony go on to compete for national honours at the Australian Training Awards – the culmination of State and Territory training awards. The Australian Training Awards have been running for 14 years and Queensland has been involved since its inception.

This year, the winners in the Queensland Training Awards included Jessica Meek who was awarded the Harry Hauenschild Apprentice of the Year. Jessica has completed a Certificate III in Electrotechnology-systems Electrician and is thriving in the traditionally male-dominated trade. She scored the highest result in her field in the past five years at the Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE.

Hutchinson Builders was awarded the Employer of the Year for their dedication and commitment to developing skills in-house. It spends more than \$3.7 million annually on education and training and employs more than 160 apprentices. Presently, Hutchinson Builders is operating in the Townsville region, building a series of kindergartens in Kirwan and near-by in Kelso and Weir. Hutchinson Builders is also working on the Mater Hospital refurbishment in Pimlico and the Townsville RSL, located in Hermit Park. The Hutchinson Office in Townsville employs 40 staff members including three apprentices.

The Bligh Government is dedicated to seeing 3 out of 4 Queenslanders hold trade, training or tertiary qualifications by 2020 – a Q2 target. We are committed to ensuring Queenslanders have the qualifications and training needed to meet the demand for skilled workers in our traditional and emerging industries. As Queensland stands on the threshold of a renewed resource boom, the demand for skilled workers is stronger than ever.

The Queensland Training Awards provide an important opportunity to acknowledge and officially recognise the achievements of the employers, apprentices, trainees, vocational students, teachers and trainers and training providers who are creating our skilled workforce. It recognises those who rise to the challenge of skilling people to fill jobs and meet the changing needs of industry throughout the state.

I am sure the Member for Mundingburra will join me in congratulating the Queensland winners of 2011 and wishing them well at the upcoming Australian Training Awards.