



Speech by

**Hon. Tom Barton**

**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

Hansard Wednesday, 1 September 2004

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Queensland Training Awards**

**Hon. T.A. BARTON** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations) (9.47 a.m.): The finals of the Queensland Training Awards last week highlighted how our vocational education and training system is well equipped to tackle the issue of skills shortages. Forty-two finalists were chosen from 834 entrants in 14 categories—an impressive line-up of individuals and organisations representing the very best in our training system.

The 2004 recipient of the Harry Hauenschild Apprentice of the Year Award is Cheryl Callender, a chef with the Cairns International Hotel. Cheryl was a mature-age apprentice who is now qualified and hopes eventually to work in her own business. The winner of the Bob Marshman Trainee of the Year is Dalby resident Yvonne Gordon. Yvonne helps to change lives through her work as a teacher aide assisting children with complex and challenging disabilities. Through her training she is now able to induct other teacher aides into this important work.

The awards also showcase businesses dedicated to training like the Small Employer of the Year, Mad About Plants, from Edmonton in far-north Queensland. By offering staff training opportunities, owners Katherine and Darryl Madder not only grow plants but have grown their business as well. The awards also salute those that provide training. The Bremer Institute of TAFE was adjudged Large Training Provider of the Year, and the Actors Workshop took out the Small Trainer Award for its targeted training for actors.

I take this opportunity to congratulate all award winners. They have each realised that training gives them the edge in their lives and in their businesses. Most of the winners now have the opportunity to contest the Australian Training Awards in Melbourne on 18 November, where Queensland has traditionally fared very well. I look forward to informing the House of their success on the national stage.