




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Queensland Training Awards

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.12 am): Creating jobs for Queenslanders is the Palaszczuk government's top priority, and it is vital that people have access to the training they need to secure real jobs and opportunities. For 56 years the Queensland Training Awards have become synonymous with excellence in training—shining the spotlight on those who are the very best in their fields. In total there are 14 award categories for apprentices, trainees, vocational students, teachers and trainers, as well as training providers, employers and community based organisations to showcase all that is great about VET in Queensland.

From more than 800 applications across the state 225 talented individuals and organisations were shortlisted to compete at seven regional finals across Queensland in July 2017. I was fortunate enough to attend some of these regional final events, which were a fabulous opportunity to celebrate the achievements of all of our finalists. Seventy-seven regional winners now progress to the state finals of the Queensland Training Awards, which will be held in Brisbane on 1 September. This will round off a series of National Skills Week events. It was a pleasure to attend a number of the regional finals to recognise firsthand the achievements of the nominees and finalists. In Townsville the North Queensland Vocational Student of the Year is Robert Douma. Robert's pathway to training has been a long one. After enlisting in the Australian Defence Force, Robert felt that he needed to experience more of the world before he could focus on his true passion: art. Following the successful completion of an Advanced Diploma of Visual Arts, Robert is now enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts degree which he juggles alongside a full-time tattooing apprenticeship.

The success of these finalists is a testament to the strength of Queensland's training sector from both public and private providers. Robert is just one example of the quality of each and every one of the finalists. Robert and his fellow state finalists represent the value of VET for Queenslanders. They are shining examples of the quality of the Queensland VET sector. I wish him and all of the other regional winners the best of luck for the state awards on Friday, 1 September. I hope to visit some of the nominees when I visit Wide Bay as part of the Governing from the Regions event in September.