The winners of the annual Northern Territory Training Awards were announced last night.

The awards recognise individuals, businesses and organisations achieving excellence in the field of vocational education and training (VET).

Minister for Education and Training, Chris Burns, said VET is vital to the future of the Northern Territory.

“Building our local skilled workforce for the future will ensure the continued growth of the Territory,” Dr Burns said.

“Our Smart Territory strategy also delivers VET pathways for students in our schools giving them access to practical training and jobs placements to make them work-ready.

“It is terrific to see the number of businesses and organisations training Territorians to provide them with the skills they need to enter into their chosen career path.

“I congratulate the many Territorians that were nominated for this year’s awards and look forward to seeing many of them continue to and become part of the local workforce.

“The winners are now up for the Australian Training Awards being held in November and I wish them luck.

“The Territory Government encourages businesses to take on apprentices and trainees by providing financial incentives and support.

“Apprentices and trainees are also entitled to a Workwear/Workgear Bonus to help them purchase work clothes and equipment.

“There are some great opportunities for Territorians to gain qualifications and get jobs through VET,” Dr Burns said.

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The Winners of the 2010 NT Training Awards are:

**Student Awards**

VET in Schools Student of the Year – Elle Megaw

School Based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year – Yazmin Brown

Vocational Student of the Year – Amy Lewis

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year – Solomon Renata

Trainee of the Year – Michael Molina

Austin Asche Apprentice of the Year – Graham Havens

**Organisation Awards**

Training Initiative Award – Charles Darwin University

VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year Award – Howard Pullen

VET in Schools Excellence Award – Nhulunbuy High School

Small Business of the Year – Stone Island Hairdressers

Employer of the Year – Department of Health and Families

Training Provider of the Year – Charles Darwin University