The Territory’s vocational education and training (VET) sector celebrated its outstanding achievers at the 60th annual Northern Territory Training Awards tonight.

Minister for Employment and Training Peter Styles congratuled The Austin Asche Apprentice of the Year, Taylor Fishlock from Katherine.

"It is wonderfu to see a young woman born and bred on a cattle station joining a growing group of Territory women breaking down gender barriers in the electrical trade," Mr Styles said.

"As well as Taylor I look forward to seeing the Northern Territory’s top apprentices, trainees and vocational students make their mark in the Territory now and in coming years.

“The VET sector plays an integral role in the ongoing economic and social growth of the Territory by skilling and training the workforce we need to develop Northern Australia.

“This year a record 89 nominations were received across the 11 categories with finalists from across the Territory and a range of industries including electro-technology, digital media, conservation and land management, business, baking, fitness, community services and agriculture.

"I wish to congratulate not only the award winners but also the trainers, employers and registered training organisation for the role they play in the success of our trainees."

Taylor was keen to pursue a trade that could take her anywhere she chose to go. She identified electrical work as the path to new opportunities and gained an apprenticeship with her Katherine-based employers M&K Lee Electrical Contractors.

Taylor describes herself as having a strong work ethic and drive. This has seen her dedicate herself to her studies and resulted in her winning the NECA Australian Electrical Apprentice of the Year. Taylor is also breaking down gender roles in her work field, being the first woman to win a NECA Australian Industrial Award.
As well as studying her Certificate III in Electrotechnology, Taylor intends to continue her studies and focus on the small business skills sector, with the aim of opening her own electrical contracting business in the future.

Taylor says she hopes to one day employ her own apprentices and give back to her community the same opportunities she was given.

The NT Training Awards are organised each year by the Department of Business with the support of valued sponsors: the Gil Court Memorial Fund, Apprentice Employment Network, ConocoPhilips, East Arnhem Regional Council, GTNT, VETnetwork Australia, Southern Cross Television, NT News, NEC, The Ichthys Project, Territory FM, Hot100, Hastings Deering and Quest Apartments Parap.

Most Territory winners will go on to represent the NT at the 2015 Australian Training Awards in Hobart in November.

For more information and details of the finalists, visit www.trainingawards.nt.gov.au and join the NT Training Awards on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NTTrainingAwards

The winners of the 2015 Northern Territory Training Awards:

**Individual category finalists**

**Austin Asche Apprentice of the year - Sponsored by Gil Court Memorial Fund**

Taylor Fishlock - Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician

Employer: M&K Lee Electrical Contractors

Registered Training Provider: Charles Darwin University

**Trainee of the year - Sponsored by Apprentice Employment Network**

Michael Perez - Certificate II in Telecommunications

Employer: SKILLED Group

Host Employer: Telstra

Registered Training Provider: Ramsden Telecommunications Training

**Vocational Student of the year - Sponsored by ConocoPhillips**

Karen Rose - Diploma of Logistics

Employer: Rio Tinto Alcan Gove

Registered Training Provider: Learning Partners

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the year - Sponsored by East Arnhem Regional Council**

Philadelphia Hughes - Certificate IV in Frontline Management

Registered Training Provider: Charles Darwin University
VET in Schools Student of the year - Sponsored by VETnetwork Australia

Georgia Lowery - Certificate III in Agriculture
School and Registered Training Provider: Taminmin College

School-Based Apprentice or Trainee of the year - Sponsored by GTNT

Raymond Fordimail - Certificate III in Business
School: Katherine High School
Employer: Nitmiluk Tours
Registered Training Provider: Charles Darwin University

VET Teacher/Trainer of the year

Matthew Deveraux - Taminmin College

Organisation category finalists

Employer of the year - Sponsored by Southern Cross Television

The Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation

Small Employer of the year - Sponsored by NT News

HiQA Geotechnical

Training Provider of the year - Sponsored by NEC

Charles Darwin University

Industry Collaboration of the year - Sponsored by The Ichthys Project

Motor Trades Association NT in collaboration with Department of Correctional Services and Centre for Appropriate Technology