Territory skills and training stars shine at National Awards

20 November 2015

Winners were grinners last night as three Territory finalists were honoured at the Australian Training Awards in Hobart.

Minister for Employment and Training Peter Styles said it was a proud day for the Territory’s vocational, education and training (VET) sector.

“Congratulation to Philadelphia Hughes for winning the 2015 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year and to Karen Rose for winning the 2015 Vocational Student of the Year,” said Mr Styles.

“It is fantastic the effort these Territorians have put in to furthering their skills has now been recognised nationally.”

Philadelphia Hughes, who completed a Certificate IV in Frontline Management at Charles Darwin University, described her decision to study as life changing. It has seen her progress from being a young woman who didn’t finish high school, to one who has now won a national award.

“It hasn’t quite sunk in yet that I have actually won, but I’m feeling really proud because the other nominees in my category were so talented,” Ms Hughes said.

Rio Tinto Alcan Gove employee Karen Rose was completing her Diploma of Logistics during the curtailment of operations at Rio Tinto Alcan and credits her studies in helping her adjust to her changing work environment.

“This is an immensely proud achievement personally but also as a representative of the Northern Territory and logistics,” Ms Rose said.

Katherine-based electrical apprentice Taylor Fishlock who almost completed the Territory trifecta, was named runner up 2015 Australian Apprentice of the Year.

“I was pleasantly surprised to be named as runner up and proud to represent the VET sector. My hope is to be able to inspire others through my achievements,” Ms Fishlock said.

All award winners at the Australian Training Awards received $5,000 while runners-up were awarded $2,500.
“The Territory’s VET sector is doing a great job, training Territorians to meet the needs of local business and our economy,” Mr Styles said.

“Our winners and finalists are from across the Territory, which shows the opportunities are available if you are prepared to work for it.

“Congratulations again to our winners and the rest of the Territory finalists.”

**Media Contact:** Rebecca Barr: 0407 284 066

**Winners - Philadelphia Hughes and Karen Rose**