Nominations open for 2016 NT Training Awards

3 March 2016

The award winning Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation (ALPA) is hoping to follow up last year’s success in the training sphere as it looks to nominate in at least four categories at the 2016 NT Training Awards.

Minister for Employment and Training Peter Styles said the event is the NT’s premier occasion recognising excellence and achievements by Territory businesses, training organisations, trainers, apprentices, trainees and students.

“Vocational education and training (VET) plays a vital role in the economic growth of the Territory and skilling and training our current and future workforce,” Mr Styles said.

“The NT Training Awards have been running since 1955 and it has become the most prestigious event on the Northern Territory’s VET calendar.

“Last year a record 89 nominations were received across 11 categories, this year we have expanded the categories to 12 to include Medium Employer of the Year for the first time and expect even more nominations.

“Two 2015 NT Training Awards category winners; Philadelphia Hughes (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year) and Karen Rose (Vocational Student of the Year) went on to claim top honours at the National Training Awards in Hobart in November last year.

“Katherine-based electrical apprentice Taylor Fishlock was named runner up 2015 Australian Apprentice of the Year and ALPA made a serious impression against some of the country’s biggest players in the Employer category.

“These achievements are an indication of the excellent work taking place in the Territory’s VET sector.”

This year the Northern Territory will host the Australian Training Awards in Darwin on Thursday, 17 November 2016.

The Territory’s own ALPA was shortlisted in the top three employers in Australia at last year’s National Awards, up against the likes of Crown Casino and McDonalds.
ALPA General Manager Enterprise and Community Services Chris Hayward said 2016 would be a big year for the organisation which now has over one thousand employees, most of which are Aboriginal Territorians.

“Our NT Training Awards experience has been nothing but positive and I would encourage all Territory employers and individuals who engage in the VET sector to nominate for the awards,” Mr Hayward said.

“Currently we are working together with contractors Ngarda as well as MITAC (Major Industries Training Advisory Council), Swinburne University and National Joblink to build a community-based Aboriginal workforce in cyclone-devastated Galiwin’ku as the rebuilding process continues.

“ALPA is working together with our partners in the project to up-skill local workers assisting them to earn a Certificate III in Remote Area Building Repairs and Maintenance.

“ALPA and contractors alike require skilled workers and this project is a major step towards building local capacity as well as providing an important gateway qualification that can lead to further training, apprenticeships and ultimately a trades-based Aboriginal workforce for the East Arnhem Region.

“It is our intention to enter this project into the 2016 Collaborative Projects Award category of the NT Training Awards and we will also be nominating for the employer of the year category again this year, as well as looking to make entries in the Indigenous Trainee and Apprentice of the Year categories.”

**2016 Categories Include:** Austin Asche Apprentice of the Year, Trainee of the Year, Vocational Student of the Year, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year, VET in Schools Student of the Year, School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year, VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year, Training Initiative Award, Employer of the Year, Small Employer of the Year, Medium Employer of the Year.

The NT Training Awards are organised each year by the Department of Business with the support of valued sponsors: Apprentice Employment Network, East Arnhem Regional Council, The Gil Court Memorial Fund, GTNT, McArthur River Mine, VETnetwork Australia, NEC, Territory Generation, Hastings Deering, The Ichthys Project, Quest Apartments Parap, and media partners Southern Cross Television, NT News, Hot 100 and Territory FM.

For more information or to nominate visit [www.trainingawards.nt.gov.au](http://www.trainingawards.nt.gov.au)

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