Nominations for the NT Vocational Training Awards are now being sought from the Territory’s high achievers in vocational education and training, the Minister for Employment, Education and Training Syd Stirling said today.

Mr Stirling said the Awards were the premier event for the recognition of excellence in the sector.

"The vocational education and training sector plays an important part in skilling the Northern Territory workforce to help build the economy," he said.

"These Awards are the Northern Territory Government's opportunity to acknowledge the work of employers, New Apprentices, students and Registered Training Organisations and celebrate their achievements.

"Government has provided $100,000 in the 2003-04 Budget to ensure their success."

There are 10 categories in this year's awards for both students and organisations. A panel judges all applications and winners will be announced at a gala dinner in September.

Winners will also represent the Northern Territory at the Australian Training Awards. Since the inception of the awards in 1955, many Territorians and local companies have been recognised at the national level.

The event is also supported by many sponsors including the Department of Education, Science and Training, CSM Techonology, Group Training Northern Territory, the NT Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Alcan and the New Apprenticeships Centre.