SYD STIRLING
MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING
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YOUTH BUSINESS AWARDS - ENTREPRENEURS OF TOMORROW

Budding entrepreneurs from Territory high schools have demonstrated the skills to operate small business enterprises of the future Minister for Employment, Education and Training Syd Stirling said today.

Businesses ranging from food, jewellery, household items and body art to the organisation of musical productions scooped the awards at the Youth Business Awards for 2005, presented today by Mr James Burke, Member for Brennan, on behalf of Mr Stirling and Business Minister Paul Henderson.

Katherine High School student businesses Sa-Nook Body Art and RTJ Productions were named as joint winners of the major Youth Business Award.

Niew Bolesworth and Dianne Hayes trading as Sa-Nook Body Art provided a temporary tattoo service at the Katherine Tick markets. Rachael McLellan, Thea de Leon and Jack Kelly traded as RTJ Productions, a small business that organised a spectacular music production which brought together talented artists from the local community.

The Youth Business Incentive award was also won by Katherine High School students Lauren Ferguson and Heather Bearham, who operated a jewellery business.

The Business Plan winners this year were Chloe Lehmann, Renee Warland, David Wenman and Teresa Wolfe from Dripstone High School. Trading as Emeis, they planned to sell various household items including key rings and chopping boards. The Business Plan Incentive Award went to Dripstone students Jonathon Lockhart and Michael Anderson for their confectionary and refreshments company, LA Foods.

Mr Burke said the Youth Business Awards reward the hard work of students who developed business plans and managed a small business as part of their studies towards a NT Certificate of Education.

“Nothwithstanding its commitment to planning, marketing and financial management, the Youth Business Awards program provides students with an understanding of the realities and rewards of business,” he said.

The Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) organises the program, with sponsorship from the Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development (DBERD) and support from the Small Business Association of the Northern Territory.

Students are provided with a loan by their school to establish a small business and are required to pay back the loan with their profits. DBERD’s ‘Youth Desk’ also provides ongoing services to assist young people currently in business and those thinking of going into business or studying business. The Youth Desk provides free confidential consultations, training through the Business Enterprise Centre (BEC), school visits and the Youth Business Awards.

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