Formal Qualifications for on-the-job training

Sixty-seven jockeys and trainers at the Darwin Turf Club are on the home straight to national qualifications as part of a program recognising years of on-the-job training and experience.

Employment, Education and Training Minister Paul Henderson said the jockeys and trainers are amongst more than 120 Territory workers enrolled in the Government’s BuildSkills NT program, which aims to increase the productivity of the Territory’s workforce by re-skilling and up-skilling existing workers.

“Many Territorians have years of on-the-job experience, but lack formal qualifications in their field,” Mr Henderson said.

“Using Recognition of Prior Learning, BuildSkills NT is helping these workers gain the qualifications they may need to meet industry or legislative requirements and keep pace with our growing economy and workforce.”

More than 150 workers have received formal qualifications through BuildSkills NT since it was launched in 2005, and the Territory Government has committed $500,000 a year for two years to continue to deliver the program as part of Jobs Plan 3.

The program has been expanded from its original categories of construction, automotive, engineering, mining and hospitality to include other areas of identified skill shortages or economic importance.

“$50 million is injected into the Territory economy during the Darwin Cup Carnival alone, making racing an important part of our lifestyle and economy,” said Mr Henderson.

“Through BuildSkills NT these jockeys and trainers’ years of experience will be recognised with the formal qualifications needed to meet the racing industry’s new national codes of practice, as well as updated training in first aid, Occupational Health and Safety and computer training.”

The BuildSkills NT program for the racing industry is based on a partnership between the Department of Employment, Education and Training and the Darwin Turf Club and is being delivered by TAFE NSW-Western Institute with input from Charles Darwin University.

A further five BuildSkills NT courses are currently underway to provide formal qualifications
for 30 Indigenous Tourist Guides in remote areas; four drillers; 15 supervisors in the beef industry; 20 child care and aged care workers; and 20 builders.