



Department of
Education and Training

Media Statement

10 August 2009

Attention: News Editor / Chief of Staff

Henderson and Hamilton Hill represented at WA Training Awards 2009

A local secondary school and an internationally renowned shipbuilder are finalists in the prestigious WA Training Awards 2009.

Hamilton Senior High School is one of three finalists in the WA VET in Schools Award sponsored by Apprenticeships Australia, and Austal Ships in Henderson is one of four organisations reaching the finals of the WA Employer of the Year sponsored by the Australian Institute of Management.

Principal Donna McDonald said she was delighted that Hamilton Senior High School was a finalist in recognition of staff who work tirelessly helping students with disabilities find work.

“We have a very strong emphasis on inclusive education across our school and this is reflected in our training program for students,” Ms McDonald said.

“Eighty five per cent of students from our education support centre find employment in mainstream jobs and 40 per cent of them do so without any additional support.

“This is a tremendous achievement for our school and the wider community.”

Austal’s chief operations manager Peter Hogan said the company was a big believer in education and training.

“We have around 250 apprentices currently in our workforce which is essential to keep up as a world leader in the design and construction of customised high speed aluminium vessels for defence applications,” Mr Hogan said.

Since 1988, Austal has delivered more than 200 vessels to 36 countries and has a product range which includes passenger vessels, coastal combat ships, cruise vessels and patrol boats.

Austal operates five shipyards worldwide, three of which are based in Henderson.

Department of Education and Training Director General Sharyn O’Neill said the WA Training Awards recognised the very high quality and standards of the training system in Western Australia.

“A highly skilled workforce is essential for our economic and social prosperity,” she said.

“The high calibre of the finalists across all the award categories shows how flexible and innovative training delivers results for industries, employers, communities and training providers.”

Winners of the WA Training Awards 2009 will be announced on Friday 4 September.

The winner of the WA VET in Schools Award and WA Employer of the Year could go on to compete against the best in Australia at the Australian Training Awards in Canberra in November.

The WA Training Awards 2009 are a joint initiative of the Department of Education and Training and the State Training Board.

For more information visit: trainingawards.det.wa.edu.au.

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