

## NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR NSW TRAINING AWARDS

Member for Murray Austin Evans today urged employers and trainers in the Murray electorate to nominate outstanding local apprentices, trainees and organisations for the 2018 NSW Training Awards.

Mr Evans said nominations for the regional round of the NSW Training Awards opened are currently open and will close on 16 March 2018.

“The NSW Training Awards are a chance to recognise and congratulate the best apprentices, trainees and teachers in our Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector,” Mr Evans said.

“I know we have many deserving candidates so I urge employers and VET trainers to step forward and nominate an individual or organisation for an award. This is a chance to show your pride in their efforts and your commitment to their training.”

“Last year two people from our electorate received awards. Madison Coelli was awarded the NSW Trainee of the Year. Madison studied Business Services at TAFE NSW and her host business was Southern Cotton.

“Our second winner was Helene Mortlock who received the NSW Special Award for a Woman in a Non-Traditional Trade or Vocation. Helene’s trade is Carpentry. She was trained by TAFE NSW and employed with Paul Ryan Building Contractors,” Mr Evans said.

Once nominations close, they will be assessed and regional award winners will be announced in June. Winners will then represent our region at the State Finals in September where they will have a chance to be named among NSW’s best.

“State winners will compete for NSW for national honours at the Australian Training Awards in November,” Mr Evans said.

VET students can be nominated if they have completed or are due to complete their apprenticeship or traineeship between 1 October 2017 and 30 September 2018.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Skills John Barilaro said the awards are a great way to celebrate the hard-working apprentices, trainees and employers in the Murray electorate.

“As a university drop-out and tradie myself, I want us to do everything we can to recognise and celebrate our apprentices, and promote the benefits of Vocational Education and Training,” Mr Barilaro said.

“Last year we received a record number of nominations for the awards, which is a great sign that more and more students, parents and employers in NSW are realising the value of VET.

“I want people to know that university isn’t your only option to achieve a rewarding and well-paid career. Our VET sector offers high-quality and affordable training, including in nine out of the 10 occupations predicted to have the highest jobs growth over the next five years, like healthcare, biotech, cyber security, agriculture, ICT and tourism,” he said.

Lodge nominations now for the 2018 NSW Training Awards at

[https://www.training.nsw.gov.au/training\\_awards/](https://www.training.nsw.gov.au/training_awards/)

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