

3rd November 2010

Council named Runners up in Apprenticeship Award

Shoalhaven City Council was recently named runners up in the Federal Government's Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs and Workplace Relations, Senator Chris Evans, Ministers Awards for Excellence for employers of Australian apprentices.

Two council representatives travelled to Canberra for the awards that are conducted each year to recognise employers who encourage diversity and best practice in their provision of apprenticeships.

Recipients of the awards are employers who support their employees by demonstrating and providing excellent standards of training within the workplace.

Investing in the training of employees makes an important contribution and shows commitment to the workforce and the community.

Shoalhaven Council supports its staff with a variety of training deliveries including internal and external access to various training activities, including personal and professional development, compliance training and job specific training.

For many people, an apprenticeship can open the door to lifelong employment and build a skillset whilst benefiting financially as well. The hands on experience coupled with a study component, helps the employer to have a comprehensive understanding of their job and its place within the industry.

Whilst Australia managed to retain apprenticeship numbers during the financial crisis, it is hoped that this commitment to the future of its productivity will continue.

Shoalhaven City Council sees the benefits of apprenticeship training as two sided. The organisation gains support in its endeavours to train its staff and the employee gains personal and professional development.

General Manager Russ Pigg said "Council has shown leadership in the community and set an objective to achieve 5% of its workforce as apprentices, trainees or cadets. This is intended to give training and job opportunities to our local youth and build the skills of local employees."

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