

Real Training for Real Jobs

JESSICA COKER

FINALIST - 2017 KOORIE STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Traineeship sets Jessica on path to public service

Jessica Coker was looking for a career that would combine her natural inclination for business and her goal to work in an organisation that helps the wider community during its everyday work.

Undertaking the Certificate III Business through the Ai Group Apprentice and Trainee Centre and working as a trainee at the Department of Justice and Regulation Victoria (DJR) – her employer host – the 22-year-old Wiradjuri woman says she couldn't think of a better place to land.

"I have been offered an amazing opportunity in a unit and team that have fostered me as a person, bolstering my self-esteem, dreams, tenacity, industry skills and immersing me in a hub of practical and invaluable experience."

Jessica is interested in politics, particularly in issues facing Aboriginal people, the environment, and the economy. She is a member of the Australian Conservation Foundation, has her own blogs, including one called the Entitlement Myth (published in *Native Title News*, 2016) and plans to apply for a seat in the National Indigenous Youth Parliament next year.

She encourages other young people to seek the "life-changing" opportunities that traineeships offer, "for personal growth, a career path and a chance at ongoing employment in the public and private sectors".

Jessica has been offered a fulltime role in her current business unit at DJR once her traineeship is completed.



"This experience has given me the resilience to succeed in my professional and personal life, giving me the fortitude to withstand the hurdles of life."

Koorie Student of the Year

The Victorian Koorie Student of the Year Award recognises the achievement of a Koorie student who displays a strong understanding and knowledge of the vocational education and training system and demonstrates the relevance of lifelong learning for themselves and their community.

Recognise and honour outstanding achievements in training



ABOUT THE VICTORIAN TRAINING AWARDS

Each year, the prestigious Victorian Training Awards recognise and honour the outstanding achievements of vocational education and training students, teachers, training providers and employers.

The Awards celebrate excellence in the training and TAFE system, highlight student achievements and the businesses' who train them. Showcases innovation and collaboration between industry and training providers - continuing to put Victoria's top achievers in the spotlight.

Through *Skills First*, the Victorian Government is delivering a trusted training and TAFE system that delivers real training for real jobs. The Awards bring confidence and pride to vocational education and training.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Individual Categories

- Vocational Student of the Year
- Apprentice of the Year
- Trainee of the Year
- Koorie Student of the Year
- School-based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year
- Teacher/Trainer of the Year

Training Provider Categories

- Small Training Provider of the Year
- Large Training Provider of the Year
- Community Training Provider of the Year

Employer Categories

- Small Employer of the Year
- Medium Employer of the Year
- Large Employer of the Year
- Employer Award for Apprenticeship Development

Industry Collaboration Award

Lynne Kosky Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement

Australian Training Awards

There are five Australian Training Awards categories open for direct entry:

- National Achievement Award
- Excellence in Language, Literacy and Numeracy Practice Award
- International Training Provider of the Year Award
- School Pathways to VET Award
- Australian Apprenticeships - Employer Award

WHY APPLY?

The Awards set the standards for vocational education and training in Victoria; promoting high quality training and workplace skill development.

Being a finalist puts organisations at the forefront, building brand recognition and a strong industry reputation. In turn attracting a better standard of employees.

Students have the opportunity to showcase skills and their journey within the training and TAFE system. Plus students have the chance to network with industry experts and employers from across the state to help build their careers.

Award winners receive \$5,000 prize money.

Winners go on to be ambassadors for the Victorian Training Awards and have the opportunity to represent Victoria nationally at the Australian Training Awards (in aligned categories).

For more information visit Victorian Training Awards www.education.vic.gov.au/vta

For all enquires email victorian.training.awards@edumail.vic.gov.au phone 03 9907 6635.

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