



2017  
**VICTORIAN  
TRAINING AWARDS**



## *Real Training for Real Jobs*

### **MATTHEW SODERSTROM**

**FINALIST - 2017 APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR**

Constructing unique training pathway  
from Auditor to Apprentice

Matthew Soderstrom says his significant career change from an Auditor to starting an apprenticeship at 29 has given him a unique perspective, and a desire to promote training pathways.

“Recently, I supported a friend through the transition from office work to learning a trade, I would relish the opportunity to mentor others.”

When he left school Matthew completed a commerce degree at Monash University, and later became an Auditor at KPMG. Throughout his childhood, Matthew had always admired his father as a builder, and realised he wanted to follow in his father’s footsteps.

As an apprentice enrolled in Certificate III Carpentry at Box Hill Institute, Matthew’s host employer is his father’s company, Istrom Homes Pty Ltd.

Matthew says building and construction not only provide him with a sense of personal fulfilment, it also injects something of value into society.

Last year Matthew used his building skills as a volunteer in Luzon, Philippines, with Team Philippines. A community was displaced during typhoon Ketsana in 2009, and Matthew helped build a community centre, and taught basic building skills. Matthew returned to the same village again this year to continue his work, building a dental facility for the community.



He plans to become a Registered Building Practitioner, train young tradespeople and build a company with an emphasis on good communication and quality workmanship.

***“My career change can inspire others who are considering a move to a trade, as well as young people to make the most suitable choice when leaving high school.”***

#### **Apprentice of the Year**

The Apprentice of the Year Award is presented to a Victorian Apprentice who has been outstanding in all aspects of their trade.

*Recognise and honour outstanding achievements in training*



## 2017 VICTORIAN TRAINING AWARDS



Education  
and 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](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/vta)

For all enquires email [victorian.training.awards@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:victorian.training.awards@edumail.vic.gov.au) phone 03 9907 6635.

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