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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA RELEASE

HIA Apprentice Takes Out Top Award

The Construction Industry Training Council (CITC) has held its annual apprenticeship awards to recognise the achievements of apprentices across all trades in the building industry throughout the ACT, with Housing Industry Association (HIA) apprentice Clancy Brentnall winning Apprentice of the Year.

HIA Executive Director for the ACT and Southern NSW Neil Evans said that the organisation is extremely proud of the achievement, and recognises the hard work and effort Clancy has put in over the four years of his carpentry apprenticeship.

The CITC awards have been running for ten years now and attract many entrants, industry leaders, Government officials, Ministers, and many family and friends to celebrate in all their achievements.

Through its apprenticeship scheme, HIA employs hundred's apprentices across Australia. With a combination of the skills learnt from our host members and the coaching and support provided by our apprenticeship managers we are encouraged when we see outcomes like this across Australia Mr Evans said.

Clancy joined HIA apprentices in 2009 and work with different hosts to gain skills in building complex custom homes and renovations. Clancy also gained some experience in commercial project which has given him all round experience in the building industry.

His current hosts Mathew and Ben Schouten from Schouten Constructions were at the awards and said Clancy is a hard working young man and was a model apprentice.

Clancy finishes his apprenticeship two weeks after receiving his award and is staying on with Mathew and Ben.

However, Mr Evans warned, not all apprentices get the chance to achieve the success of Clancy, with the national completion rates for directly indentured apprentices languishing at a disappointing 48%.



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Fortunately, through the experience as a long standing group training provider, HIA has developed an in-depth system of mentoring, which has resulted in significantly higher retention rates for HIA apprentices.

This success has now been recognised by the Commonwealth Government, with HIA recently receiving funding through the national *Building Australia's Future Workforce* package, which aims to increase retention rates in building and construction.

Mentoring has been shown to be an effective strategy which can contribute significantly to the career development of apprentices.

The HIA Apprenticeship Mentoring program is a free service that is designed to assist directly indentured apprentices to adjust to the expectations of work and training by providing a supportive network.

Through effective mentoring, apprentices can gain the support they need to tackle a wide range of issues from the workplace, such as relationships with their employer or colleagues, through to external challenges such as social or financial pressures.

For further information:

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