



Greg Aplin MP
Member for Albury

MEDIA RELEASE

8 September 2017

RIVERINA FEMALE CARPENTER WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD AT THE 2017 NSW TRAINING AWARDS

Member for Albury Greg Aplin has congratulated Helene Mortlock from the NSW Riverina town of Jerilderie for taking out the Special Award for a Woman in a non-Traditional Trade or Vocation at the 2017 NSW State Training Awards held last night at Sydney Town Hall.

Helene was recognised for her off-the-job training in Carpentry at TAFE NSW – Riverina and her work at Paul Ryan Building Contractors.

Mr Aplin said Helene, a mother of three, reinvented her career when her family made a tree change to Jerilderie.

“Helene’s father, who has 60 years’ experience in the trade, offered her an apprenticeship which she took up enthusiastically,” Mr Aplin said.

“She was the only female in her class and inspired her teachers by questioning the environmental impact of their methods and seeking sustainable alternatives.”

Helene said she loved the fact that her classroom training related directly to the job. “I would learn a skill at TAFE then find myself applying it at work,” she said.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Skills John Barilaro said the annual NSW Training Awards showcased the world class vocational education and training (VET) offered in NSW and acknowledges our very best VET students.

“The VET sector is the critical first step to a stronger economic future for our regions, our state and the nation as a whole,” Mr Barilaro said.

“VET is a great way for people of all ages to access skills and knowledge they need to open doors to vibrant, rewarding careers in a variety of industry sectors.

“VET training is helping meet the changing skills needs of our economy and delivering qualifications in fast-growing sectors like information technology, health and aged care, hospitality, fitness and recreation.

“Helene’s success is typical of the fantastic outcomes that can be achieved through VET and I wish her all the best in his future career,” Mr Barilaro said.

More information: www.training.nsw.gov.au/training_awards & <https://vet.nsw.gov.au>

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