



Greg Aplin MP
Member for Albury

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW SCHOLARSHIPS TO SUPPORT ALBURY APPRENTICES

Member for Albury, Greg Aplin today congratulated three local apprentices who were selected to receive a \$15,000 Bert Evans Scholarship from the NSW Government to support their vocational education and training.

Mr Aplin said the scholarships, worth \$5000 a year for three years, would help painter and decorator Carter Webb, carpenter Damien Bell and engineer Michael Quino overcome financial challenges on the way to completing their apprentice training.

“All three of these deserving local apprentices have shown passion and ability in the face of adversity to pursue their trade qualifications, so it gives me great pleasure to announce their success in being selected for these scholarships,” Mr Aplin said.

Mr Aplin said the Bert Evans Scholarship will help:

- **Carter Webb**, with accommodation costs when he attends TAFE training on block release;
- **Damien Bell** to buy the tools he needs for his apprenticeship and to buy his own car for work;
- **Michael Quino**, to be able to afford a car and the tools required for his trade over the coming years.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Skills, John Barilaro said the man honoured by the scholarships, Bert Evans, who sadly passed away earlier this year, was a distinguished advocate for the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector for more than 30 years.

“These scholarships are all about recognising people who’ve endured hardship, or may be doing it tough, but have got themselves on a path to a fulfilling career by taking on an apprenticeship.

“We want to back these apprentices and the success of this scholarship program is reflected in the completion rate of 80 per cent among recipients, which is very high. “Regionally-based apprentices, students with a disability, Aboriginal apprentices and females in non-traditional trades are all represented in the scholarship pool and will benefit from this financial support,” he said.

“More and more students, parents and employers are recognising the value of VET and we want to make sure financial hardship is no barrier to people getting the skills they need,” he said.

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