

9 December 2009

Minister presents Horticulture Program Achievement Awards to BoysTown graduates

- EVENT:** Horticulture and Landscaping Program Achievement Awards
- DATE:** Thursday 10 December
- TIME:** 9.00am
- VENUE:** Bidwill Community Garden, Chestnut Crescent, Bidwell NSW
- ATTENDEES:** The Hon David Borger, MP, Minister for Housing, and Minister for Western Sydney, local councillors, industry representatives, trainees and their families.
- PHOTOS:** Photos of young people working on projects or receiving the awards are available on request. The Minister will distribute certificates to the two award winners.
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The Honourable David Borger, Minister for Housing and Minister for Western Sydney will present two BoysTown Horticulture and Landscaping Program graduates with Housing NSW Achievement Awards this Thursday, 10 December.

The awards will be presented to BoysTown Horticulture and Landscaping Traineeship Program graduates Nathan Morrison and James Hickey for excellence in attendance and diligence in completing their Certificates II in Landscaping and achieving numerous personal goals during 2009.

BoysTown Chief Executive Officer Tracy Adams said the program provides young people with paid full-time work and on-the-job training that creates real outcomes for both those in the program and the wider community.

“Successful trainees receive a Certificate II in Horticulture and Occupational Health and Safety Induction Card (Green Card), but more importantly they also develop enhanced life skills and constant support from our staff,” she said.

“Of the 20 young people who just graduated, twelve completed the Certificate II and one trainee completed both a Certificate I and III.

“Fifteen trainees have since gained employment opportunities in fields that include: horticulture and landscaping, retail, construction, warehousing and the defence force.”

BoysTown’s Sydney Regional Manager Michael Starr said the young people were nominated for the awards because of the significant life changes they had made since beginning their traineeships.

“In addition to gaining work, they have made many other personal changes to their lives, including reconnecting with their family, saying no to drugs and most importantly being prepared to have a go,” he said.

The Program consists of four teams of five trainees who work on horticulture and landscape projects across the Campbelltown and Blacktown regions and is offered in partnership with Housing New South Wales. To access the program participants must live in social housing.