



media release



BoysTown

10 December 2009

## Minister presents Achievement Awards to BoysTown graduates

**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 today.**

The awards will be presented to Nathan Morrison and James Hickey for excellence in attendance, diligence in completing Certificates II in Landscaping, and achieving numerous personal goals during 2009.

BoysTown Chief Executive Officer Tracy Adams said the Horticulture and Landscaping 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 Landscaping and an Occupational Health and Safety Induction Card (Green Card), but, more importantly they also develop enhanced life skills and receive constant support from our staff,” she said.

“Of the 20 young people, who just graduated, 12 completed a Certificate II and one trainee is now working towards Certificate III.

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.

“When we first met Nathan he had separated from his family and was mixing with local gangs but with some hard work he has turned his life around.

“During the program he completed a Certificate II in Landscaping, earned a drivers licence and purchased his own car. Now he has a job and is living back at home with his mother and two younger brothers.

“James approached one of our teams as a 15 year-old and asked if there was any work going, which was a good first impression and he has continued to impress.

“He had immaculate attendance at TAFE and completed Certificate II in Landscaping. He is now working as an assistant mechanic in a lawn mower repair shop and completing his Certificate III in landscaping, whilst awaiting an apprenticeship in the industry.

“We couldn’t be prouder of these young men and are pleased they are being recognised with Achievement Awards, which include a \$100 Bunnings Gift Card. “

The Horticulture and Landscaping Program consists of four teams of five trainees who work on projects across the Campbelltown and Blacktown regions and is offered in partnership with Housing New South Wales.

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