

MEDIA RELEASE



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Thiess awarded for knockout performance

Construction and mining heavyweight, Thiess, has knocked out its Brisbane competition to receive the Federal Government's award for businesses that have made an outstanding contribution to training and promoting Australian apprenticeships.

Minister for Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Ms Julia Gillard MP, made the announcement on Friday at a function held at Parliament House, Canberra, to mark the '2008 Minister's Awards for Excellence for Employers of Australian Apprentices.'

Thiess Executive General Manager Plant Bruce Kenny said the accolade reinforces that the Thiess' Plant Apprentice program provides exceptional training opportunities and encourages young apprentices to punch well above their weight.

"Thiess is committed to investing in the future by positively and actively contributing to the training of Australian apprentices while also growing as a company and retaining quality, skilled workers.

"By incorporating best practice initiatives we are increasing the number of qualified apprentices in the resources industry," Mr Kenny said.

Established in 2006, The Thiess Plant Apprentice Program is a centrally co-ordinated national program that delivers high quality training through a single Registered Training Organisation and a single Australian Apprenticeship Centre.

The program has a current membership of 71 and offers National certificate III qualifications in Mechanical Trade, Auto Electrical Technology and Fabrication Trade through a combination of on and off site training.

Mr Kenny said the award is the icing on the cake "...the real success will be the program's contribution to Australia's economic development through its innovative approach to skills development."

The runners up in the Brisbane region were Energex and Boeing Australia Limited.

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