

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**DATE:** Thursday, 11 August 2022

**HEADLINE:** MPA Skills Scores Dual Finalists in WA Training Awards

The high standard of plumbing and painting training at MPA Skills was recognised by the WA Training Awards today, with the only two finalists in plumbing and painting coming from the RTO.

MPA Skills painting and decorating head trainer, Stephen Delaney, is a finalist for Trainer of the Year, while plumbing apprentice, Jake Lee, is up for Apprentice of the Year.

MPA Skills CEO, Ben Dahlstrom, offered congratulations to both and said the announcement reflected the quality of MPA Skills training delivery.

“This is a thoroughly deserved reward for effort for Stephen and Jake that recognises their unwavering commitment to excellence,” he said. “It also reflects the quality of MPA Skills training and the culture of continuous improvement we’ve instilled to better meet the needs of industry and provide a training environment that nurtures the next generation of tradespeople.”

Stephen said he was humbled to be a finalist given the dedication he sees from his peers in the VET sector.

“It’s a huge honour to be named as a finalist among such a committed and talented field. I genuinely love my job and I’m determined to make a positive difference while always looking to get better at what I do,” he said.

Master Painters and Decorators Association President, Mick Houghton, also welcomed Stephen’s achievement and underscored the importance of maintaining tight connections between training methods and industry practice.

“Stephen’s accomplishment is a shining example of how industry and VET delivery can work hand-in-hand to streamline the pathway through learning to industry best practice,” he said.

“It’s also outstanding validation of our long association with MPA Skills as a leading trainer of painting apprentices.” For Jake, who employer Wilcox and Co Plumbing considers to be a “lifelong learner”, being a finalist in the coveted Apprentice of the Year represents an exciting opportunity to develop leadership skills from the early stages of his career.

**Ends**

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**Note to editors:**

MPA Skills is WA's biggest employer of plumbing and painting apprentices. MPA Skills is also renowned in the sector for its industry-leading apprentice and advanced training solutions. Visit [www.mpaskills.com.au](http://www.mpaskills.com.au) to learn more.