



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**17 August 2007**

### **NT Representatives invited to Canberra**

22 of Australia's best and brightest apprentices and trainees gathered in Canberra on Monday 6 August to showcase their trade and leadership skills.

These outstanding apprentices and trainees have been selected from a network of 42,000 apprentices and trainees employed by group training organisations in metropolitan, regional and remote communities around the country. Brett Scott, employed by GTNT and hosted to PowerWater and Norm Halliday, employed by GTNT and hosted to GEMCO were the Northern Territory representatives.

Group Training Australia (GTA) gave them the opportunity to attend the Australian Institute of Sport for its annual Today's Skills Tomorrow's Leaders five day career development program. This was launched by GTA's Patron, the Governor General, Major General Michael Jeffery (Retd) at Government House on Tuesday 7 August 2007.

The Group of 22 also visited Parliament House for a series of meetings with Ministers and senior Opposition representatives.

All these apprentices and trainees take their career development seriously and have benefited from the flexibility that employment through group training offers.

Brett Scott said "The experience showed me how to put the ideas from my mind to paper. I now have a clearer plan for my life and feel it is definitely achievable"

Norm said "I now know the goals that I felt that were unachievable are very achievable. It helped me break down my perceived barriers and I feel like nothing is impossible if I set my mind to it."

"Group training is a critical component in building Australia's skills base. This program strengthens and enhances group training's contribution in building Australia's skills and is vital in the ongoing campaign of combating the national skill shortages." Jim Barron CEO of GTA said

"The Patronage of His Excellency the Governor-General sends a strong message to the community – that apprentices and trainees are an integral part of the communities in which they are operating as well as the nation's social and economic fabric.

"The current skills shortage continues to cost Australia productivity and opportunity. It is vital that we remain focused on nurturing tradesmen and women with both skills and leadership. It is today's young men and women who will be the role models for next generation of apprentices," Jim Barron concluded.

For further information please call:

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