A TAFE student from Highbury was tonight named the 2011 Apprentice of the Year.

Employment, Training and Further Education Minister Jack Snelling announced Joshua Konc, from Highbury, as the OneSteel Whyalla 2011 Apprentice of the Year.

Mr Konc, aged 20, is employed by Australian Industry Group Training Services and works for host employer O-I Glass. He is currently completing his Certificate III in Electrotechnology with TAFE SA Adelaide North Institute.

Mr Snelling said the awards provided an opportunity to celebrate success in the state’s VET sector.

“The South Australian Training Awards acknowledge the achievements of our best and brightest students, apprentices, trainees, teachers and trainers, registered training organisations and employers,” he said.

“Education and training is vital in building our skills and workforce. These awards, hosted by the state’s Training and Skills Commission, recognise both the achievements of individuals, and the organisations which are taking an innovative approach to training.

“The awards highlight the wonderful and rewarding careers achieved by students who have undertaken a trade and other vocational qualifications.

“The 2011 South Australian Training Award winners continue to raise the bar through their drive, determination and passion for training and they demonstrate our state’s ability to expand its skills base as well as increase the proportion of South Australians with higher level qualifications.”

Winners will have the opportunity to represent South Australia at the national Australian Training Awards in Brisbane in November.

2011 South Australian Training Awards organisation winners:

**WorkCover SA 2011 Industry Collaboration Award**
Service Skills SA for the Retail Executive Program

**Australian Council for Private Education and Training 2011 Small Training Provider of the Year Award**
Transport Training Solutions / Allan Miller Driving School
2011 Large Training Provider of the Year
TAFE SA Regional

*Messenger Community News* 2011 Small Employer of the Year
Murray Bridge Veterinary Clinic

*Channel 9* 2011 Employer of the Year
ETSA Utilities

2011 South Australian Training Awards individual winners:

**2011 VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year**
Dr Lewis Vaughan, employed by TAFE SA Adelaide North Institute

**Trade Schools for the Future 2011 School-based Apprentice of the Year**
Alexander Nikielski - Certificate III in Electrotechnology, attends St Patrick’s Technical College, trained by TAFE SA Adelaide North Institute, employed by Broens Industries Pty Ltd

**SA Unions 2011 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year**
Kristal West - Certificate III in Business, trained by AWC Training Pty Ltd, employed by SA Ambulance Service

**in-Business 2011 Trainee of the Year**
Zoe Dick - Certificate III in Beauty Services, trained by TAFE SA Adelaide North Institute, employed by Evella Skin and Body

**Business SA 2011 Vocational Student of the Year**
Vanessa Corbell – Certificate III in Floristry, trained by TAFE SA Adelaide North Institute, employed by Flowers by Pride

**OneSteel Whyalla 2011 Apprentice of the Year**
Joshua Konc - Certificate III in Electrotechnology, trained by TAFE SA Adelaide North Institute, employed by Australian Industry Group Training Services, host employer: O-I Glass