



SUCCESS: Award-winning PEER apprentices Ramon Teeuwen, Daniel Kelly, Alex Borghesan and Christopher Cowan.

# GET BACK TO YOUR BEST

WORKERS who suffer from an injury on the job and find they cannot resume work in their role often struggle to know where to turn, fearing an uncertain future.

However, by working with a rehabilitation provider and a training organisation, they can access training which gives them the skills to work in another industry and get their career back on track. AMA Skills Training has a track record of finding solutions for workers by retraining them for jobs. A spokeswoman says it often is an unexpected and positive lifestyle change.

"One such story is Jack, who over the past 18 months, has completely changed his life direction," she says. "Jack had been working full time for a construction company and had experienced a back injury."

Following consultation with his rehabilitation provider and in discussion with AMA Skills Training, he chose to study a Certificate IV in Leisure and Health.

In conjunction with his studies, Jack started as a volunteer at a residential aged care facility, assisting the diversional therapist to provide recreational programs for residents. He was later employed as the full-time co-ordinator of diversional activities at the facility.

# AT TOP OF THEIR FIELDS

**A**PPRENTICES and host employers are finding success through PEER, which continues to train award-winning apprentices, with graduates entering the workforce and building their own businesses and careers in the industry.

PEER, a not-for-profit industry training and employment organisation, specialises in plumbing, electrical, data communications, airconditioning and refrigeration trades. Its chief executive Peter Nolan says the capabilities of its apprentices are evident through a series of state and national awards across these fields.

“Those who come to PEER can rely on our trainers and facilities

to deliver the highest standard apprenticeships and we're thrilled to see our hard working apprentices go on to win national awards and champion the PEER brand long after leaving our doors," Nolan says.

Data communications graduate Christopher Cowan was awarded Communications Apprentice of the Year title at the 2017 NECA National Excellence & Apprentice Awards as well as first place Communications Apprentice of the Year at the NECA SA/NT Industry Gala Dinner.

PEER plumbing apprentice Daniel Kelly received the Gold Medal Award at the 2017 Master Plumbers South Australia Awards, Ramon Teeuwen was Commercial Domestic Apprentice of the Year

at the NECA SA/NT Industry Gala Dinner while, at the same awards, Alex Borghesan received Industrial Apprentice of the Year.

Borghesan now works as a high voltage electrician at STE Solutions. He undertook an apprenticeship at PEER after evaluating his options upon completing Year 12.

"Having gone to university for my first year out of Year 12, studying a bachelor in commerce I quickly realised university wasn't for me," Borghesan says. "That's where PEER came into it. The most appealing aspect of going to PEER as opposed to a company direct to complete an apprenticeship was that I would have flexibility, be able to see different areas of a big industry but most of all gain vital contacts."

Borghesan says the biggest opportunity of his career was the chance to connect with his now boss Ben, from STE Solutions, which was organised through PEER. "The opportunity involved working within the high voltage industry, something I never would have had access to if not for PEER," he says.

"I have now completed my apprenticeship and am a HV electrician with the company still to date."

PEER has trained 45,000 people and 3000 trade apprentices. More than 90 per cent of apprentices complete their apprenticeship and, of them, 95 per cent find jobs in their chosen trade.

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