

# John Forrest Senior High School - WA State Award Winner

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John Forrest Senior High School in Perth, WA, was last night named State Impact Award Winner for their partnership with Master Plumbers and Gasfitters Association (MPA) Skills.

The school will receive \$50,000 as State Winner, which is an addition to the \$50,000 they received as Local Impact Award Winner, and will now vie for a further \$400,000 if named National Award Winner at a ceremony in Sydney on 26 November.



This outstanding school-community partnership allows senior students to commence a part-time school-based apprenticeship in plumbing or painting and decorating while completing their year 11 and 12 studies. The training is delivered by the industry partners on the school site with many mutual benefits evolving as a result.

The program, which began in 2007, is an initiative to train local youth while they are still at school and then progress them as employees through 'MPA Skills Group Training Scheme'. Students in the program complete Year 11 and 12, qualifying with a West Australian Certificate of Education and a Pre-Apprenticeship qualification which provides a pathway to a full apprenticeship (Certificate III level) qualification.

The link of the community partner to industry makes the delivery of the training unique as it is truly industry focused and industry driven. This is a highly regarded partnership model which provides great benefits to both partners.

Schools First judges assessed this community partnership as being Western Australia's leading example of the student benefits that can be achieved when schools and communities work together.

Jodi Cryan, Head of Schools First, said that it was clear that there is a very solid and effective partnership between the school and a Group Training Organisation.

"One of strongest benefits of the partnership is that it encourages students to stay on at school to complete their pre-apprenticeship studies," Jodi said. "The benefits flowing from this are evident."

"The education of young people rests on the shoulders of the entire community, and this is a shining example of how students can flourish when school and community work together."

"We hope that these funds will allow the partnership to continue to thrive and benefit more young people."

To date, Schools First has awarded \$10.15 million to 196 Australian schools to support and sustain their effective school-community partnerships. Another \$5 million in funding will be available to schools in 2011.