



Stuart Ayres

Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney
Minister for Trade and Industry

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 5 November 2021

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO ASPIRING REGIONAL EVENT MANAGERS

The NSW Government will provide Diploma of Event Management scholarships to 20 up-and-coming event managers across regional NSW through a partnership with peak events industry body Meetings & Events Australia (MEA).

Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney and Minister for Trade and Industry Stuart Ayres said the scholarships would play an important role in stimulating new business event activity in regional communities.

"The business events sector presents a major opportunity for the visitor economy, particularly for regional NSW," Mr Ayres said.

"We know that the best way forward is to help to create more jobs and these scholarships will do exactly that - giving people the tools and extra support needed to kick-start their careers.

"I congratulate the 20 scholarship recipients who are already making valuable contributions to their local communities and wish them every success as they begin their diploma studies and continue their journeys in the events sector."

MEA Chief Executive Officer Peter McDonald said he was looking forward to welcoming the fourth intake of regional students at a time when creating skills is key to enhancing career opportunities in the regions.

"MEA's Diploma of Event Management is an events industry-built and delivered qualification. Our students gain an applied education by learning about sector concepts in real-world, real-time contexts. That regional NSW events are increasingly benefiting from the strong skillsets gained by the growing number of scholarship program graduates is testament to its quality and success," Mr McDonald said.

"MEA is delighted to partner with the NSW Government and Destination NSW once again to welcome a new cohort of scholarship recipients and looks forward to supporting their event management learning and career journeys."

The scholarships are an initiative of the NSW Government's \$6 million Regional Conferencing Strategy and Action Plan.

The 20 recipients were selected by a panel, which included representatives from the NSW Government's tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW, MEA and the state's six Destination Networks.

The list of recipients for 2021 can be found here: <https://www.meetinnsw.com.au/scholarships>

MEDIA: Emma Dunn | 0427 292 170