

Cabinet-making company in line for State award

Brothers happy in business

By GRAHAM ORAMS

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A SOUTH Grafton cabinet-making business has been named a finalist in the NSW Training Awards.

Clarence Valley Kitchens and Shopfitting is one of three finalists vying for the prestigious NSW Small Business of the Year Award.

Company director Brad Willis said he and his business partner – brother Daniel – were very happy to hear they had made the finals.

“It feels good, quite rewarding,” Mr Willis said.

“Daniel and I are just happy to be there.”

Barry Quayle, a training consultant with MAS National, recommended Clarence Valley Kitchens and Shopfitting nominate for the award.

“What I think really stands out about Brad and Daniel is the variety of training opportunities they provide,” Mr Quayle said.

“They are a new business and already have an office trainee and

a couple of furniture industry trainees.”

Brad Willis said the 18 months he and his brother had been in business had been ‘pretty good’.

He said winning the award would be ‘a great coup’ for his business, Mr Quayle, and the entire Clarence Valley.

The NSW Training Awards are run by the NSW Department of Education and Training.

They recognise students, teachers, employers and training organisations in the vocational education and training sector.

Mr Willis said his business was one of 16 businesses throughout New South Wales nominated for the Small Business category.

Small Business Award nominees must demonstrate outstanding commitment and excellence in the provision of training to their employees.

The winner of the NSW Small Business of the Year Award will be announced in Sydney on 13 September.



Owners of Clarence Valley Kitchens and Shop Fittings Brad, left, and Daniel Willis, right, with first-year trainee in certificate II furniture making Ashston Anderson.

Feds unlikely to step in at Grafton Base: Abbott

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Grafton Base Hospital’s Community Committee, believes the Mersey Hospital idea has merit.

“My first thought was ‘what a wonderful idea’,” Mrs Adams said.

“We’re in a bad way here. We desperately need funding for the theatres.

“I think it’s absolutely wonderful the Federal Government took on

board the plight of the hospital in Devonport.”

Mrs Adams said the Community Health Committee is holding a special meeting today to discuss making an approach to the Federal Health Minister regarding the state of Clarence Valley hospitals.

She said today’s meeting follows on from a phone call made to Mr Abbott’s office yesterday about possible Federal intervention.

Meanwhile, Tony Abbott’s office claims they have been inundated with calls from people wanting their local hospitals funded by the Commonwealth.

The callers have apparently been phoning to complain that state governments are ruining their hospitals and that the Federal Government should consider taking control.

However, both the Prime Minister and the Health Minister remain non-

committal, maintaining a ‘wait and see’ attitude.

The Commonwealth intends to spend up to \$45 million a year to enable Mersey hospital to maintain its existing services.

Although the Government is refusing to commit to direct funding with other hospitals, Mr Abbott believes that Mersey provides a potential model for other hospitals in the future.

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