

MEDIA RELEASE

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## NT Training Awards ATSI Student of the Year

Outback Stores' Training Officer, Caraline "Dotty" Repu, was awarded 2022 NT Training Awards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year, at a gala awards ceremony held over the weekend in Darwin.

In its 67th year, the awards celebrate the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector which supports thousands of Territorians to obtain the skills needed to grow and develop the Northern Territory workforce.

Originally from Maningrida in West Arnhem Land, Dotty has been working at Outback Stores' Darwin Support Office since 2020 and recently was promoted to Training Officer.

"I'm so proud to win this award, doing something that I really believe in. I'm glad to be able to show others how far VET training can take you, and to give others the same opportunities I've had. I'm working towards completing a Certificate IV in Leadership and Management and, with time, hopefully moving up into a leadership role at Outback Stores, to continue supporting our communities and homelands", said Dotty.

Dotty Repu will progress to the National Australian Training Awards to be held in Adelaide on Friday 18 November, where she will represent herself, Outback Stores, Maningrida and the Northern Territory.

## DOTTY REPU IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW

For interview requests contact Nicola Pitt, Communications Officer  
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### About Caraline 'Dotty' Repu:

Dotty is from Maningrida Community located in West Arnhem Land 520km east of Darwin. Her Mother is from the Martay clan group in Maningrida and her father is from Boigu and Mabuiage Island in the Torres Strait, where her family still reside.

After graduating from Darwin High School, Dotty finished her school-based traineeship with Westpac, completing her Certificate III in Business Administration. She then moved home to Maningrida and was quickly recruited by Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation (BAC) as its receptionist for 12 months before embarking on a traineeship with National Indigenous Training Academy based at the Ayers Rock resort, completing a Certificate III in Hospitality. Upon completing her traineeship, Dotty returned home with BAC offering her a multi-faceted role across Human Resources, Accounts Payable, Housing, and Property Management where she would gain valuable on-the-job experience.

Dotty moved to Darwin in February 2020, to work with Outback Stores as Operations Administration Assistant. Since then, she has completed Certificate IV in Retail Management, as well as Training and Assessment, working her way up to her present position as Training Officer.

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[Outback Stores](https://www.outbackstores.com.au) provides retail store management and support services on a transparent fee for service basis to Indigenous owned community stores. We work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in a holistic way to improve health, nutrition, employment, training and economic outcomes in remote communities.

Over the past fifteen years Outback Stores has assisted 62 remote community stores in total. Of those it has halted the closure of 15 stores, managing 11 of these stores out of administration, 3 out of liquidation and a further 10 stores through significant financial challenges.