



## SMALL BUSINESSES HONOURED IN AUSTRALIAN SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION AWARDS

**S**mall businesses from around the nation were celebrated at the Australian Small Business Champion Awards, in a ceremony held on Saturday November 3 at Star City, Sydney.

Proudly supported by Commonwealth Bank Local Business Banking, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources and managed by Precedent Productions, the national awards program recognises the most outstanding small businesses in each state and territory and their contribution to the local community.

The top accolade, the 'Small Business Champion Entrepreneur Award', and a prize worth \$40,000, was awarded to South Australian businesswoman Ly Lim, co-founder of successful training, IT services and design company, Knowledge Plus.

Inspired by a desire to help others develop their skills, build their career and reach their potential, Ms Lim and her partner Les, set up Knowledge Plus in 2003. As well as recently being named President of the Asia Pacific Business Council for Women, Ms Lim has also gone on to author a practical guide to small business success 'Small Pebble, Big Ripple'. Looking ahead, the pair plans to expand Knowledge Plus interstate and hopes to branch into new market segments such as recruitment.

Michael Blomfield, Executive General Manager, Commonwealth Bank Local

Business Banking, said, "The Australian Small Business Champion Awards recognise the invaluable contribution that small businesses make to their local communities and the nation's economy."

"The Commonwealth Bank is committed to supporting small businesses across Australia and is proud to be involved with a program that celebrates and rewards the achievements of small business owners," Mr Blomfield said.

In total, 31 national awards were presented to businesses from across Australia.

The award for Automotive Services went to NSW business, Auto Advantage. Auto

Advantage provides a free service and uses its independent purchasing power to act on behalf of the customer to find and negotiate the best price on a car.

It also arranges individual specifications and dealer requirements as well as finding the best financial options and will deliver vehicles to the buyers home or place of work for assessment and when purchased.

Auto Advantage specialises in buying new and used cars (over \$10,000) of all makes for personal use or for people in business.

Under the direction of its Managing Director, Kyle Loades, Auto Advantage now provides car buying services for people throughout Australia.

Other inspiring award winners included Healthy Habits Australia, which took out the 'Gourmet Food/Takeaway Store' Award. As a leader in healthy, made-to-order sandwiches, Healthy Habits Australia is focused on providing fresh food to the community and promoting a healthy lifestyle. Founder Katherine Simpson launched the business in Collingwood in 2004 and has since expanded it to include over 26 stores nationwide.

Queensland business, Squiggly Training – a dedicated provider of professional life and business coaching – took out the 'Business Services' Award and The Brothers Fish Market in Seven Hills, NSW, took out the 'Fresh Food Award'.

"This evening's impressive showcase of winners illustrates the amazing talent within Australia's small business community. We'd like to congratulate not only the winners, but all small businesses across Australia who display passion, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit," Mr Blomfield said. Precedent Productions, Managing Director, Steve Loe, said, "We look forward to building on our inaugural year and continuing to recognise small businesses for their achievements in the future".

**For further information call the Local Business Banking team on 13 26 07 or visit [www.businesschampions.com.au](http://www.businesschampions.com.au)**