



John Barilaro
Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional NSW
Minister for Industry and Trade

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 17 October 2019

NOWRA BUSINESS SHINES AT PREMIER'S EXPORT AWARDS

Nowra-based Essence Group has taken out the highly-competitive national Agribusiness, Food and Beverages category at the prestigious NSW Premier's Export Awards.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW, Industry and Trade John Barilaro congratulated all the outstanding NSW exporters who had successfully cracked the international market.

"These businesses represent the very best NSW has to offer – from small, family-owned businesses to listed corporations, they are making a tangible contribution not only to New South Wales but the entire nation," he said.

"I hope they can inspire thousands of other businesses out there to take a punt and become exporters."

In total, eighteen NSW businesses were recognised for their outstanding success and contribution to the state's trade output at the annual Premier's NSW Export Awards held at The Star last night.

The locally-owned Essence Group is an industry-leading full-service contract manufacturer, distributor and innovator of infant nutrition, industrial and therapeutic goods and nutraceuticals.

Employing 180 staff at facilities in South Nowra and Sydney and working with Australia's biggest brands and private label customers, it now exports to China, US, UK, India, Singapore, Malaysia and South East Asia.

"This is a tremendous honour and reflects the hard work our company has put in over the last 15 years building it into what it is today," Essence Group chief executive officer Matt Caldicott said.

"Thank you to the NSW Government for recognising that effort and we thank them for their ongoing support."

Cover Genius, which is streamlining the insurance sector with simple policies and

instantly approved claims, was crowned the 2019 Premier's NSW Exporter of the Year.

The insurance technology company, which was only started in 2014 and now partners with the world's largest online companies, also took out the national Professional Services Award.

Organic baby food producer Bubs Australia, started in CEO Kristy Carr's kitchen, was named the NSW Exporter to Asia, while leading data science and AI firm, Quantum, won the NSW Development Impact Award.

Amongst the winners, the Emerging Export Award went to socially aware mattress brand Koala, while safety equipment manufacturer SafetyLink was named Regional Exporter of the year.

Heath Baker, Acting CEO of the Export Council of Australia (ECA), said NSW businesses had the innovation and expertise to succeed on a global stage and it was important that we recognise their tremendous efforts and achievements.

"It's fantastic to also see the diversity of the companies that entered the awards this year," he said.

"The awards acknowledge and celebrate the success of NSW companies internationally. They also encourage business not currently exporting to think global."

Annually exporters make a significant contribution to the NSW economy, with goods and services exports worth \$89 billion in the 2017-2018 financial year.

The NSW Government can assist companies wanting to export their products and services with its network of export advisors across the state including in Sydney, Gosford, Nowra, Orange, Port Macquarie, Tamworth and Wagga Wagga. For further details of how to access support, go to: <https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/export-from-nsw/export-assistance>

For further details of how to access support please click [here](#).

For more information on the award winners, please click [here](#).

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