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## 'Tough start' Perth man named WA Young Person of the Year

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An Aboriginal man who has overcome homelessness and family problems has been named WA's Young Person of the Year for 2015.

Preston Colbung, 22, is now a student at Curtin University and a case worker with repeat offenders in Armadale.

The award was announced on Friday night by Youth Minister Tony Simpson.

"Preston has proven a bad start doesn't need to continue into adulthood. he is now a young leader and a fantastic role model for all young people in Western Australia," he said.

Preston is also the winner of the ECU Community Leadership Award and is WA's Aboriginal representative for the Australian Youth Climate Coalition and has worked with Amnesty International.

Other WA Youth Awards winner announced on Friday night were:

Cultural Endeavours Award: Zal Kanga-Parabia, 20, Winthrop. Zal volunteers his time as an artist to support local projects and other young artists.

Commissioner for Children and Young People Participate Award: Emily Hardbottle, 16, Attadale. A young carer and founder of a local basketball program for young people with physical disability.

Active Participation Award: Jay McLean, 9, Caversham. A Year 12 student from Kiara College, Jay is a young Aboriginal leader dedicated to reconciliation.

Minister for Youth's Most Outstanding Youth Worker Award: Lorraine Drew, 29, Middle Swan, a youth worker at Rise Network with Outreach Support Services.

Organisational Achievement Award: Dismantle Inc, West Leederville. Delivers bike-based programs for at-risk young people.



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