# ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

We would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional Country of the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains. The traditional tribal land, or Country, stretches from Crystal Brook in the north down to Cape Jervis in the south and from the Mount Lofty Ranges to the coast of Gulf Saint Vincent. It is also the place of the Kardi, the Emu, whose story travels from coast to inland.

We pay our respect to Elders past and present. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land. We acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to the Kaurna people living today. We acknowledge and respect the Kaurna people’s cultural, spiritual, physical and emotional connection with their land, waters and community. And we also extend that respect to other Aboriginal Language Groups and other First Nations people.

Kaurna spirituality recognises the connectedness of people and culture through plants, animals and stars. This understanding of the environment has ensured that animals, plants and people lived in harmonious balance for untold generations. The history and culture of the Kaurna people is reflected and celebrated around the city of Adelaide today, notably, the main square in the heart of the city, reflecting the Kaurna name for the area, Tarntanyangga, meaning Red Kangaroo dreaming, while the River Torrens is also know by the native Kaurna name for the river, Karrawirra Parri, meaning Redgum forest.

Since 1994 the Australian Training Awards has celebrated excellence in VET by recognising Australian businesses, VET graduates, practitioners and training providers for their achievements on the national stage.

In 2016 the VET Alumni program was launched – the first national alumni of the VET sector. With over 500 members, the Australian VET Alumni is a passionate community dedicated to showcasing the best that VET can offer.

The remarkable VET journeys of the finalists celebrated at the 2022 Australian Training Awards do not end after the announcement of the awards. Every finalist is invited to join the exclusive Australian VET Alumni to continue to tell their own story and inspire people from every corner of Australia.

The ongoing success of the VET sector would not be possible without our passionate Australian VET Alumni.

# Order of Proceedings

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|  | Large Employer of the Year Award |
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|  | VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year Award |
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| End of presentation  #ATA2022 |  |

# MINISTER’S Welcome



**Welcome to the 2022 Australian Training Awards, where we will celebrate the achievements, commitment and professionalism of the vocational education and training (VET) sector and the individuals who make it a success.**

This is a night to acknowledge and applaud the VET sector’s talent and recognise their excellence, dedication and hard work.

These awards acknowledge the best students, trainees and apprentices, and also the supporters, the excellent teachers, trainers and mentors who help them along the way.

Highlighted in these awards are everyday people doing extraordinary things. They underpin the success of our VET system and their stories are inspirational.

I’m confident the stories behind these finalists will encourage many others to consider enrolling or to take up a career in the VET sector.

As Minister for Skills and Training, I believe in the transformative power of education and training. As we face the most acute skills shortage To everyone in the VET sector – whether you are a finalist, or you supported someone to get to the finals – it is only by harnessing your talents and enthusiasm that we can continue to build the world class VET sector that this country needs and deserves.

The VET sector not only powers the economy, best of all, it has the power to improve the lives of individuals by helping them to have secure employment and a rewarding career.

These awards are a timely reminder to the whole country about just what is possible if we focus on quality training and skills development.

To all the finalists, I wish you all the very best for your future endeavours. I encourage you to build on your success tonight and continue to inspire those who follow in your path.

Thank you.

**The Hon Brendan O’Connor MP**

Minister for Skills and Training

# STATE/TERRITORY MINISTERS

## **Tasmania** The Hon Felix Ellis MP

Minister for Skills, Training and Workforce Growth

## **Northern Territory** The Hon Paul Kirby MLA

Minister for Business, Jobs and Training

## **Australian Capital Territory** Chris Steel MLA

Minister for Skills

## **New South Wales** The Hon Alister Henskens SC MP

Minister for Skills and Training

## **Queensland** The Hon Di Farmer MP

Minister for Training and Skills Development; Minister for Employment and Small Business

**Victoria**At the time of publishing, the Victorian Government was in a caretaker period in preparation for the 2022 Victorian Government election.

## **Western Australia** The Hon Sue Ellery MLC

Minister for Education and Training

## **South Australia** The Hon Blair Boyer MP

Minister for Education, Training and Skills

# OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN THE VET AND SKILLS SECTOR AWARD

**The Outstanding Achievement in the VET and Skills Sector Award recognises an individual or employer who has made an outstanding contribution to the VET and skills sector for over 15 years and has contributed a new innovation, knowledge or practice to the sector.**

## ROB BONNER

Rob Bonner’s distinguished and influential service within the VET and skills sector spans 32 years. During this time, Mr Bonner has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of VET practice and skills development through expert advice, the publication of research papers, Training Package reform and the design and implementation of innovative teaching and learning programs that address the specific needs of a diverse range of stakeholders.

Rob’s adult education journey began with his appointment as a casual Lecturer with the School of Nursing at Flinders University in 1990. He has subsequently held many key leadership positions within the sector, including at the Australian Nursing Federation and Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation. In his current senior leadership role, Mr Bonner is responsible for industrial, education and membership programs at the Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation (South Australia). This role included management of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Education Centre, a Registered Training Organisation.

Mr Bonner is highly respected for his leadership and intellectual capacity, innovation and passion for the sector. Known to translate complex ideas into practical and innovative ‘on-the-ground’ solutions, Mr Bonner contributes to the work of numerous boards and committees, presents and teaches internationally, participates in Australian VET-related trade delegations and manages significant research projects.

Rob’s leadership skills are grounded in his personal integrity, honesty and authenticity and it is these qualities and his ‘can do’ attitude that has enabled him to gain the universal respect of colleagues and to make such a significant contribution to VET and skills in Australia.

# INNOVATION IN VET AWARD

**The Innovation in VET Award recognises and celebrates innovation initiatives in the VET and skills sector.**

## The Finalists

#### CathWest Innovation College

**NSW**

CathWest Innovation College takes an innovative approach to education with the curriculum allowing each student’s passion to shine and develop. Known as the Inquiry Pathway, students’ creative thinking, problem solving, entrepreneurial mindset and research skills are developed. The Inquiry Pathway is strongly supported by VET, with students obtaining industry recognised qualifications as part of their college studies.

#### APA Group

**NSW**

APA is one of Australia’s leading energy infrastructure businesses, providing gas, electricity, solar and wind services across Australia. APA value the professional development of their workforce, placing importance on upskilling staff through VET qualifications. They piloted several solutions to improve the efficiency of VET assessment administration, identifying RealWear headset technology to be the most effective. The innovative use of technology has meant that during pandemic travel restrictions and lockdowns the students were not disadvantaged, the duration of their VET education was not extended, and assessment was consistent across facilities.

#### Box Hill Institute – Augmented Reality in Construction

**VIC**

Box Hill Institute’s augmented reality and mixed reality tools for construction and welding students has seen an overwhelmingly positive response from students – improving learning outcomes and significantly reducing waste. The technology will assist in upskilling the Australian workforce to meet future skill shortages in these industries. Using augmented reality simulators allows students to use best practice technology and quality systems in a hands-on environment without the environmental risks associated with real materials.

# SMALL EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

**The Small Employer of the Year Award recognises small businesses with 99 or fewer full-time equivalent employees that have achieved excellence in providing nationally recognised training to their employees.**

## The Finalists

#### WV Technologies

**ACT**

WV Technologies is an information technology and data security company and the first IT Lifecycle company in Australia to gain National Association of Information Destruction AAA certification for data sanitisation and destruction services along with Top Secret security endorsement. The company have run their training program in collaboration with their parent charity Worldview Foundation since 2019. The enterprise has been independently evaluated by the Centre for Social Impact; for every dollar spent on their social programs, approximately nine dollars is returned to the community over five years.

#### Frontier Marine Services

**NT**

Frontier Marine Services (FMS) are a highly specialised marine electrical contracting company employing staff with a passion for the water. FMS believes that training benefits all stakeholders including employees, employers and customers. FMS have supported staff development with multiple qualifications and certifications to suit the demands of the marine industry. FMS employs a combination of internal and external training opportunities to increase skills and knowledge in both electrical and marine fields.

#### Regional Anangu Services Aboriginal Corporation

**SA**

Regional Anangu Services Aboriginal Corporation (RASAC) delivers a range of services, including municipal services and community patrols, across the APY lands in the far northwest corner of South Australia, in some of the most remote and disadvantaged Aboriginal communities in Australia. RASAC is the largest employer of local Anangu workers and has a fierce determination to train local workers to fill jobs in their communities and progress to supervisory roles. RASAC collaborates with TAFE SA so that internal training is mapped to accredited training and RASAC supervisors and TAFE lecturers work together to deliver training and undertake assessments.

# LARGE EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

**The Large Employer of the Year Award recognises large businesses and enterprises with 100 or more full-time equivalent employees that have achieved excellence in providing nationally recognised training to their employees.**

## The Finalists

#### Komatsu

**NSW**

Recently celebrating the company’s 100th anniversary, Komatsu has spent the past century dedicated to its founding principles: quality first, technology and manufacturing innovation, global reach and people development. Looking toward the next 100 years, Komatsu’s focus will be on the industries they serve and transforming to the digital workplace of the future, through smart technologies, equipment and people. Innovatively nurturing the next generation of tradespeople, Komatsu’s Apprentice Development System, has set new national standards for the way industry trains its apprentices and trainees,   
and has become a benchmark for training nationwide.

#### M.C. Herd Pty Ltd

**VIC**

M.C. Herd, established in 1951, is a 3rd-generation Australian family business. Starting as a small council abattoir providing services to the Geelong and district areas, it has evolved into a large export abattoir employing over 300 local staff to process beef and lamb for world markets. Training for skills development is linked to employee training plans developed between an employee and their supervisor. M.C. Herd is committed to providing opportunities for everyone— matching roles to the strengths of an individual. Ask a team member how long they’ve worked at M.C. Herd, and the reply will likely be between 10–50 years.

#### Byrnecut

**WA**

Byrnecut is one of the world’s leading underground contract miners with over 3,800 employees. Byrnecut’s training programs undergo continuous improvement, with input from experienced operators and management to ensure quality learning opportunities. With 21 per cent of employees undertaking a traineeship or apprenticeship within WA, Byrnecut is committed to world-class training and development, individualised learning plans, unlimited support and access to thousands of resources and networks to set employees up for successful, long-term careers with the company.

# AUSTRALIAN APPRENTICESHIPS—EMPLOYER AWARD

**The Australian Apprenticeships—Employer Award recognises employers who have made innovative improvements in training that provides beneficial outcomes for their apprentices and/or trainees in Australia and to their local community.**

## The Finalists

#### Komatsu

**NSW**

Komatsu provides essential equipment, technologies and services to the construction and mining industry. They use innovative technology to improve environmental sustainability and business efficiency in the industry. Komatsu’s Apprentice Development System program uses VET to create and maintain a skilled workforce. In addition to the on-the-job and theoretical training provided, apprentices and trainees learn about mental health awareness, road safety and fatigue management, and drug and alcohol awareness. They also work on building a range of corporate skill sets including public speaking and business management. The program helps create a positive workplace culture and has increased the retention of apprentices.

#### G8 Education

**QLD**

G8 Education is an early learning and education care provider committed to providing children with quality early learning. With 448 centres across Australia, G8 cares for approximately 50,000 children each week, directly employing 10,000 team members who support the children on their learning journey. Addressing current skill shortages, G8 implemented a Study Pathways Program to attract, develop and retain educators. The program accredits educators with skills and VET qualifications to develop and progress their career in the education and care sector. The program currently supports over 3,000 educators in obtaining fully funded, nationally accredited qualifications.

#### WA Department of Justice: Raising the Bar Behind Bars

**WA**

The Corrective Services division within the Department of Justice Western Australia aims to enrich prisoners’ lives and reduce reoffending. The Department implemented the Prisoner Traineeship Program to establish a clear pathway from prison to employment, through VET. The program has supported over 4,775 prisoners in an apprenticeship or traineeship, with a completion rate of 70 per cent. On release, apprentices and trainees who gain employment through the employment partners receive an average starting salary of $90,000 – leading to car and home ownership, often for the first time in generations.

# SCHOOL PATHWAYS TO VET AWARD

**The School Pathways to VET Award recognises eligible organisations including schools, registered training organisations, group training organisations, industry bodies and employers that have collaboratively delivered one (or more) excellent VET programs to secondary school students.**

## The Finalists

#### Sunshine Coast Technical Trade Training Centre

**QLD**

The Sunshine Coast Technical Trade Training Centre (SCTTTC) is solely focused on trade students and their transition from school to VET study, to the workforce with industry qualifications. Since 2011 SCTTTC has prepared over 2,000 students with the skills and knowledge needed for industry employment. SCTTTC engages between secondary schools, VET providers, community, students and industry. This collaboration enables SCTTTC to continue to grow, producing highly skilled and professional graduates who are prepared to commence their careers.

#### Bendigo Senior Secondary College

**VIC**

Bendigo Senior Secondary College (BSSC) provides traditional and VET education styles to its 1,700 year 11 and 12 students. An integrated delivery approach allows BSSC students to undertake VET cohesively with other parts of college life, learning and individual support. With 20 VET qualifications at Certificate II and III levels available, 941 students are currently pursuing industry recognised qualifications, experience, and strong employment opportunities. BSSC works with the local community to demonstrate shared understanding and a collective commitment to building a sustainable workforce for the community.

#### Busselton Senior High School

**WA**

Busselton Senior High School (BSHS) has been a RTO school since 1999, implementing a unique educational model that combines traditional education methods with VET opportunities. BSHS is bridging the gap between education and training, supporting non-university bound students to complete a Certificate qualification. In engaging with the local community, acknowledging future skill shortages and student survey data, BSHS has increased its VET offering. This year, 75 per cent of BSHS students are enrolled in a VET qualification, seeing attainment rates of above 98 per cent.

# INDUSTRY COLLABORATION AWARD

**The Industry Collaboration Award recognises an exemplary skills development collaboration between at least one employer/industry body and at least one organisation delivering nationally recognised training.**

## The Finalists

#### *Queensland Future Skills Partnership*

**BHP Mitsubishi Alliance, TAFE Queensland and CQUniversity Australia  
QLD**

Launched in August 2019, the Queensland Future Skills Partnership is led by BHP Mitsubishi Alliance and includes TAFE Queensland and CQUniversity Australia as its education partners. The partnership is designed to fund and facilitate the fast-tracked development and delivery of accredited training in automated technology. It has led to advanced skill sets and vocational qualifications, ensuring the sustainability of open-cut mining operations in Queensland. Arborists Don’t Grow on Trees

#### *Arbortrim*

**Citywide & Arboriculture Australia  
VIC**

To address skills shortages in Arboriculture, the Arborists Don’t Grow on Trees collaboration was formed. The ardent tree lovers committed to addressing this shortfall include RTO, Arbortrim Australia, the national and state peak bodies for the tree industry, Arboriculture Australia and the Victorian Tree Industry Organisation, and leading employer, Citywide, who provides tree care and open space maintenance. Training initiatives include pre-employment programs and safety refresher training, as well as writing minimum industry standards, peer reviewed learner guides and operating procedures with information sourced from technical experts and leading arboriculture researchers and practitioners from across the world.

#### *Making Tracks*

**WA Department of Justice  
WA**

Making Tracks is a collaborative industry training and employment network of partnerships for prisoners across WA to ensure VET delivery within prisons is relevant and appropriate to the needs of both the prisoners engaged in training and the businesses that go on to employ them. Through collaboration with employers in key industries, the program reduces the stigma ex-prisoners face when seeking employment, while meeting the needs of the labour market, contributing to the economy and reducing reoffending.

# SMALL TRAINING PROVIDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

**The Small Training Provider of the Year Award recognises small RTOs, with fewer than 500 students, that offer a range of training products and services and that demonstrate excellence and high-level performance in all aspects of vocational education and training.**

## The Finalists

#### Academy of Film, Theatre and Television

**NSW**

For nearly 20 years the Academy of Film Television & Theatre (AFTT) has helped launch countless careers in the creative arts industry. From acting through to production roles, across the film, television and theatre industries, AFTT are both passionate and innovative in the way they create their learning environment. To help students thrive in a competitive industry, AFTT partnered with practicing industry professionals and has developed an engaging program of training, allowing students to gain practical skills and insight into expected industry standards and protocols.

#### Harness Energy Services Pty Ltd

**QLD**

Harness Energy is a cross-sector organisation providing training and labour supply to businesses throughout Queensland. Its innovative approach includes online learning and virtual reality to enhance student experience, which is reflected in a 97% completion rate for the qualifications it delivers. The Harness Energy vision is to consistently supply its clients with well-trained and safe employees, reducing associated costs to individuals, families and businesses.

#### Taylorweir International School of Hairdressing

**WA**

Taylorweir International School of Hairdressing is the longest established private hairdressing RTO in WA. The training delivery focuses on a client-driven approach, ensuring that students achieve their best outcomes with support from their employers and the outstanding teaching skills of the organisation’s trainers. With over 480 enrolled students, Taylorweir’s 25-year journey continues to be one of learning, growth and change which has allowed it to maintain its position as the leader of hairdressing and barbering education in Australia.

# LARGE TRAINING PROVIDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

**The Large Training Provider of the Year Award recognises large RTOs, with 500 or more students, that offer a range of training products and services and that demonstrate excellence and high-level performance in all aspects of vocational education and training.**

## The Finalists

#### Canberra Institute of Technology

**ACT**

The Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) has been providing technical and further education in the ACT and surrounding area for 90 years. With around 20,000 students each year, CIT offers over 300 courses ranging from apprenticeships and certificate-level training through to diplomas, degrees and graduate certificates. CIT courses are strongly aligned with ACT and national skilling priorities. Courses include emerging areas such as renewable energy and cyber security, to create modern workforces that meet industry need. Through CIT Student Support and the CIT Student Association, CIT provides access to mental health support, financial assistance, and a range of other services to its students.

#### Avidity Training and Development

**TAS**

Avidity Training and Development has been operating throughout Tasmania for over 13 years, specialising in training for the community services industry (predominately the disability sector). Avidity’s vision is for every learner to access quality training that is affordable, available and tailored to meet individual needs. To achieve this, Avidity provides a wide range of services, from face-to-face training of nationally recognised qualifications to disengaged members of the community, to developing training plans to address the needs of industry in consultation with relevant peak bodies and employers.

#### Bendigo Kangan Institute

**VIC**

With a history dating back to the gold rush, Bendigo TAFE and Kangan Institute operates eight TAFE campuses across Melbourne’s northern suburbs, regional Victoria, and internationally through partnerships with overseas training institutes. Education and training options span across diverse study areas, including automotive and trades, business and IT, food and fibre, health and community services, culinary and hospitality, and Indigenous and foundation courses. In response to a strong demand for cybersecurity skills in Victoria, Bendigo TAFE and Kangan Institute launched the Certificate IV in Cyber Security at Kangan Institute’s Cremorne Campus in March 2022.

# EXCELLENCE IN LANGUAGE, LITERACY AND NUMERACY AWARD

**The Excellence in Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LLN) Practice Award recognises innovation and excellence by an individual involved in improving LLN skills in an educational, community or workplace context.**

## The Finalists

#### SUSAN SHAW

#### Employer: Kangan Institute

**VIC**

Susan Shaw teaches English as a second language to refugees and migrants at the Kangan Institute. She coordinates Certificate IV and teaches Certificate I and II in Spoken and Written English. Susan provides a high-quality education offering, aiming to add value to the lives of her students. She works hard to create quality content and make a positive difference. Susan is a proud advocate for the use of technology to transform online learning into an interactive and engaging experience to teach vocabulary and build community within the class environment.

#### YUAN XU

#### Employer: Djerriwarrh Community and Education Services

**VIC**

Yuan is a teacher at Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services, supporting migrants and refugees in Victoria. She teaches classes in the Adult Migrant English Program, helping students with low English levels to improve their English language skills, settle into Australia and find meaningful employment. Yuan was the founding coordinator of the Settlement Language Pathways to Employment and Training (SLPET). SLPET provides English language tuition and facilitates up to 80 hours of workplace experience for students. She oversaw the entire program development process, from student recruitment to evaluation. As the SLPET coordinator, she designed lesson plans and activities to prepare students for Australian workplaces.

#### ABRAHAM DUNOVITS

#### Employer: Djerriwarrh Community and Education Services

**VIC**

Abraham is a Skills for Education and Employment teacher at Djerriwarrh Community and Education Services. He specialises in teaching English as a second language to migrants and refugees. Abraham is passionate about combining language tuition with social and teamwork skill development. Currently Abraham is coordinating an initiative that combines English as an Additional Language training with hospitality skill development. This initiative links students with employment in the hospitality industry and supports them with developing social and practical skills of the industry. This program will help to fill the skills shortage in hospitality.

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# VET TEACHER/TRAINER OF THE YEAR AWARD

**The VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year Award recognises innovation and excellence by a VET teacher or trainer providing nationally recognised training to students at a registered training organisation (RTO), or in partnership with an RTO.**

## The Finalists

#### MATTHEW FRASER

#### Employer: TasTAFE

**TAS**

Matt believes that learning is a lifelong journey and applies this philosophy when teaching his hospitality and tourism students at TasTAFE. Matt maintains active industry knowledge and experience to provide a contemporary connection to industry for his students. He also oversees the teams that compete in WorldSkills 2022, Nestle Golden Chef and Australian Culinary Foundation competitions. Matt fosters a love of learning within his students and encourages them to extend themselves. Matt helped his students establish a market garden and business to grow and sell herbs, connecting with the building and facilities students to construct the garden beds and structures.

#### JUSTIN BURGESS

#### Employer: Taminmin College

**NT**

Justin joined Taminmin College in 2020. The former metal fabricator trains students four days a week across two campuses in Certificate I & II in Engineering as well as Work Safely in the Construction Industry and Working Safely at Heights. Justin has adopted a hands-on approach focussing on the different needs and capabilities of students and building relationships. Training over 70 students per year, he encourages regular feedback building workplace-style relationships with students. As a result, assessments are now project based and better suited to students’ learning styles. In addition, Justin has shown innovation by setting up the training workshop with a new computer lab to equip students for the technological future of the industry.

#### RICHARD LINDSAY

#### Employer: Canberra Institute of Technology

**ACT**

Richard has 25 years experience in the automotive industry and has been teaching at Canberra Institute of Technology since 2016. During the COVID-19 lockdown, Richard implemented innovative online platforms with simulated practicals within each apprentice’s workplace to keep his students learning. His online program minimised the impact of the pandemic on the student’s training and is now used by Toyota and Tesla Australia as training sessions for their staff’s personal development. Richard’s dedication and ability to develop a flexible delivery model has broadened the capabilities of the program and effectiveness of the apprentices when returning to their dealerships.

#### CLINT GIDDINGS

#### Employer: Public Schools NSW, Wagga Wagga

**NSW**

Clint is a well-respected teacher of Construction at Blayney High School, where he applies himself wholeheartedly to encouraging his students’ success. Clint is an outstanding teacher and an inspirational ambassador for VET. As SBAT Coordinator and Careers Advisor, Clint works with Skillset, a local recruitment and employment provider, helping improve and develop VET pathways for his students. Clint led the charge in devising and preparing a submission for his students to build a Construction Cottage training facility, under the supervision of a local builder, to improve Construction training delivery.

#### RONELLE SHEEHAN

#### Employer: TAFE Queensland North Region

**QLD**

Ronelle is a dedicated VET teacher who is passionate about training, particularly in the adult learning space. Currently specialising in health and aged care, Ronelle delivers the Certificate III in Health Services Assistance and the Certificate II in Health Support Services. In 2021, she was instrumental in the health and aged care industry’s response to COVID-19, delivering state-wide Infection Control Skills Set training across North Queensland.

#### REBECCA TOLEMAN

#### Employer: South West TAFE

**VIC**

Raised in Hawkesdale South-west Victoria, Rebecca grew up with farming in her veins. In 2018, Rebecca’s passion to mentor and teach future farmers led her to bring her vast farming experience to SWTAFE. The course began with 30 enrolments and two full-time teachers. By 2021 this expanded to 370 students, with eight teachers, across 10 programs. Rebecca led SWTAFE to revolutionise calving training by introducing a life-size cow simulator that enabled students to develop their skills without endangering or causing unnecessary discomfort to live animals. The ground-breaking initiative became an industry talking point across the world.

#### STEPHEN DELANEY

#### Employer: MPA Skills

**WA**

For 20 years, Stephen has delivered training to his students with a pastoral and holistic approach. He readily participates in training to upskill, as well as adapting and improving his teaching style to navigate modern-day challenges. At MPA Skills Painting and Plumbing, Stephen’s passion is training pre-apprentices which he says is “challenging and rewarding” but where he can make the biggest impact. Stephen did not think he would be training for as long as he has been, but two decades later, he is as passionate as ever and loves making a difference in people’s lives.

#### BHU CHUNG

#### Employer: Adelaide Institute of Hospitality

**SA**

Bhu has been teaching for over eight years, his current position is the Head Trainer and Assessor at the Adelaide Institute of Hospitality. Bhu acknowledges that he has learnt a lot through teaching commercial cookery and kitchen operations to a diverse range of students. Bhu has facilitated professional development days for VET Teachers in Schools, taught children with special needs and taught Asian cookery at various state correctional facilities. At the age of 14, Bhu left his country of birth, Tibet, eventually coming to Adelaide on a sponsored student visa where he finished his apprenticeship in cookery.

# Vocational student OF THE YEAR AWARD

**The Vocational Student of the Year Award recognises outstanding achievement by a vocational student in a course of study leading to a nationally recognised qualification. State or territory training award winners of this category are automatically finalists for the Australian Training Awards and will compete at the national level.**

## The Finalists

#### FLEUR BROADHURST

**Qualification: Certificate III in Education Support**

**Employer: St. Patricks College**

**RTO: TasTAFE**

**TAS**

Fleur says “Completing the Education Support qualification as a mature age student has allowed me to achieve my long-held goal of working with young people”. Fleur gained her Certificate III in Education Support and is now employed as a teacher’s aide at St Patricks College in Launceston working with children with learning difficulties. Fleur achieves positive outcomes for students, communicating effectively with students, teachers and other educational providers, including speech pathologists and occupational therapists. In addition, Fleur was recently chosen to head up the College’s VET administration team.

#### KIRA VANDERKLEY

**Qualification: Certificate III in Fitness/Certificate IV in Fitness**

**RTO: Charles Darwin University**

**NT**

Since completing her qualification with Charles Darwin University, Kira has gained even more confidence in her communication skills with clients and colleagues. She loves working in a team and has helped many other staff members who have struggled with their workloads. Passionate about inspiring people in their fitness journey, Kira has gained motivation, accountability, and fresh ideas from study to apply to her training as a fitness instructor. With a willingness to give things a go, Kira now has her own registered business name and would like to become a nutritionist to complement her fitness training.

#### JULIA WARE

**Qualification: Certificate IV in Auslan**

**RTO: Access Training and Education**

**ACT**

Julia thrives in providing language access and therefore choice and independence to the deaf community. She explains she fell in love with the language and has developed strong connections within the deaf community. Real world practice enables her to build relationships with deaf people in the ACT community and build local knowledge and signs. It also builds trust which is key for deaf people who have a limited pool of interpreters and often need help for sensitive or confidential matters. Julia’s goal is to become an Auslan interpreter by completing the Diploma of Interpreting.

#### CASEY FOX

**Qualification: Certificate IV in Training and Assessment**

**Employer: St George & Sutherland Community College**

**RTO: St George & Sutherland Community College**

**NSW**

When Casey found herself out of work during the COVID-19 pandemic, she boldly used the opportunity to pursue a Certificate IV in Training & Assessment with St George & Sutherland Community College (SGSCC). Casey reconnected with her love of learning and was such an exceptional student that she was offered a permanent trainer position with SGSCC. Through her decision to undertake further education as a busy mum, Casey received a formal qualification and an exciting career change. “It has truly cemented that training people, coaching them, and helping them grow, is where I find satisfaction.”

#### COURTNEY EVANS

**Qualification: Diploma of Nursing**

**RTO: TAFE Queensland**

**QLD**

After a long career in the hospitality industry, an accident on a ski trip became the catalyst for a career change for Courtney. Courtney’s dedication to her Diploma of Nursing resulted in a number of training accolades, as well as employment as an enrolled nurse in January 2022. Courtney has now been accepted to complete a Bachelor of Nursing and aims to become a registered nurse.

#### CAITLIN COOK

**Qualification: Diploma of Nursing**

**Employer: Simply Seniors in Home Care**

**RTO: South West TAFE**

**VIC**

Caitlin, a young stay-at-home mum of five, always wanted to be a nurse but never believed she could achieve her dream. After joining the Young Parents VCAL program at South West TAFE, Caitlin applied for the Diploma of Nursing. Caitlin loved her time studying, but had to overcome personal tragedy. Nevertheless, Caitlin was determined to create a successful career and positive future. Now Caitlin works as an Endorsed Enrolled Nurse and is embarking on a Bachelor of Nursing/Midwifery at Deakin University. Caitlin said she changed so much that she hardly recognises the person who started the course two years ago.

#### CAITLIN BEZUIDENHOUT

**Qualification: Certificate IV in Preparation for Health and Nursing Studies**

**RTO: Health Science Hub**

**WA**

Inspired after visiting her nanna at an aged care facility, nine-year-old Caitlin was determined to make a positive change in the industry. Still at school, Caitlin is completing her Certificate IV in Preparation for Health and Nursing studies through Health Science Hub and her Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing) through Australian Medical Association WA. Through her work placement with Baptistcare, Caitlin has been able to gain hands-on experience and is passionate about creating positive energy in her workplace.

#### MADISON TAYLOR

**Qualification: Certificate II in Electrotechnology**

**RTO: PEER**

**SA**

Maddy is a rural student completing her Year 12 studies at Burra Community School. Last year, her VET coordinator encouraged students at her school to pick up a trade if they were interested in trying an apprenticeship in the near future. Maddy advocated for the school to find a trade program which could be run in the local area, providing all students with the opportunity to complete a trade. Maddy’s future aspirations consist of completing her Year 12 studies and obtaining an apprenticeship.

# AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL-BASED APPRENTICE OR TRAINEE OF THE YEAR AWARD

**The Australian School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year Award is presented to a student who is undertaking a Certificate II or above qualification as a part-time Australian School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship. The Award recognises the student’s commitment to their formal studies at school, and in the workplace.**

## The Finalists

#### ABBEY QUINN

**Qualification: Certificate III Individual Support**

**Employer: May Shaw**

**RTO: Australian Employment and Training Solutions**

**School: Rosny College**

**TAS**

Abby undertook a short work placement at May Shaw Swansea while in grade 9. She loved the experience and, in her words, “couldn’t keep away from the nursing home” so she started volunteering, doing everything from kitchen duties to taking residents out to lunch, and painting residents’ finger nails. After volunteering for 18 months Abbey was offered a school-based apprenticeship at the centre. The opportunity meant Abbey could achieve her Tasmanian Certificate of Education and a qualification in her intended career.

#### BELLA FAULL

**Qualification: Certificate III in Hairdressing**

**Employer: Carlee Hair Design**

**RTO: Charles Darwin University**

**School: Good Shepherd Lutheran College**

**NT**

A Year 11 student at Good Shepherd Lutheran College, Bella is enrolled in a School-based Apprenticeship with Carlee Hair Design. She joined the team at the salon after completing her Certificate II Salon Assistant Course at Charles Darwin University (CDU) in 2021. Since starting her School-based Apprenticeship, Bella has gained the confidence to overcome any challenges. Bella is passionate about learning, leadership and helping people to feel their best, and it is her goal to one day run her own salon.

#### JOSH HAYNES

**Qualification: Certificate III in Plumbing**

**Employer: Platinum Plumbing Canberra**

**RTO: Canberra Institute of Technology**

**School: St. Mary MacKillop College**

**ACT**

Josh had a strong interest in learning a trade as a career and wanted to get a head start on his training through an Australian School-based Apprenticeship while he completed his senior studies. After a week of work experience at Platinum Plumbing Canberra, Josh was inspired to study plumbing. As part of the essential workforce, Josh feels confident his career choice will provide ongoing job security. Josh’s teachers say he shows a great work ethic and leadership qualities, working well to accomplish tasks alone or as a solid member of a team.

#### TAHLI GLEESON

**Qualification: Certificate II in Agriculture**

**Employer: Local Land Services**

**RTO: Public Schools NSW, Tamworth**

**School: Merriwa Central School**

**NSW**

Farming and agriculture had always been a big part of Tahli’s life. Tahli accepted a role as a School-based Trainee with Local Land Services while enrolled in a Certificate II Agriculture qualification. Throughout her traineeship, Tahli was exposed to numerous facets of agriculture and farming, both practical and operational. She displayed an outstanding work-ethic and a ‘get it done’ attitude, applying herself with gusto to both administration and practical farming tasks. With an expanded resume and her Certificate II qualification in-hand, Tahli knows that VET was a great career choice.

#### MATTHEW SIVER

**Qualification: Certificate III in Health Services Assistance**

**Employer: Australian Training Company**

**Host employer: Metro North Health**

**RTO: SWC Training**

**School: St Columban’s College**

**QLD**

Matthew is currently completing a School-based Traineeship with Metro North Health that will result in a Certificate III in Health Services Assistance. Undertaking this training pathway has ignited a passion for the health care sector for Matthew, and he plans to continue his studies in the field after he graduates from high school. Matthew’s ultimate career goal is to become a paramedic.

#### JAYNAYA MILLER

**Qualification: Certificate III in Business**

**Employer: Skillinvest**

**RTO: Skillinvest Training**

**School: Warrnambool College**

**VIC**

Jaynaya enrolled in a Certificate III in Business that was designed specifically for Aboriginal students. Through her training provider, Skillinvest Training, she undertook work at the Warrnambool Police Station and is now passionate about a career in the police force. Driven to succeed, Jaynaya juggle school, two jobs and her course. Through her School-based Traineeship, Jaynaya found her passion, gained self-confidence and solidified her career goals. Jaynaya is deeply involved with her Aboriginal community and has become a strong voice for the girls who don’t have confidence but want to achieve change.

#### SOPHIA PITARO

**Qualification: Certificate III in Sport and Recreation**

**Employer: Leisure Employment Australia**

**Host employer: BlueFit – Belmont Oasis Leisure Centre**

**RTO: North Metropolitan TAFE**

**School: Applecross Senior High School**

**WA**

Driven to gain as much experience as she can while attending high school, Sophia has already completed Certificates in Events Management, Tourism and Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways. Now embarking on a traineeship through North Metropolitan TAFE, Sophia is completing a Certificate III in Sport and Recreation and has completed qualifications including her First Aid, Lifeguard and CPR Certificates while gaining on-the-job experience with BlueFit – Belmont Oasis Leisure Centre.

#### SAKINA QAMBARI

**Qualification: Certificate III in Hospitality – Front of House**

**Employer: MAS National Apprenticeship**

**Host employer: Renmark Club**

**RTO: TAFE SA**

**School: Renmark High School**

**SA**

Sakina migrated to Australia with her family from Pakistan and Afghanistan. She is currently studying Year 11 at Renmark High School, while also working at Renmark Club and has completed a Certificate III in Hospitality. Having only worked in the hospitality industry for a year and a half, Sakina is still exploring her options, however, would like to continue gaining more experience in different sectors of the hospitality industry so she can be better exposed to the opportunities that come with it.

# ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

**The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Award recognises the achievement of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander student undertaking an apprenticeship, traineeship or course of study leading to a national qualification, and who demonstrates the importance of lifelong learning for themselves and their community.**

## The Finalists

#### NATHAN PITCHFORD

**Qualification: Certificate IV Project Management**

**Employer: Nayri Niara**

**RTO: Institute of Project Management**

**TAS**

Nathan is now leading cultural activities as a Cultural Producer with the Nayri Niara organisation. Nathan went back into formal training after 20 years because he wanted to develop skills, build his confidence and self-develop as an Aboriginal cultural performer and producer. It was a significant step, supported through the Nayri Niara Our Way Home program. Nathan says the training was comprehensive and built into a relevant cultural framework that allowed him to build a deeper connection with his culture and develop a confidence that he can pass on through his work.

#### CARALINE REPU

**Qualification: Certificate IV in Training and Assessment**

**Employer: Outback Stores**

**RTO: Alana Kaye**

**NT**

Caraline, or Dotty as she is known, is from the remote community of Maningrida in West Arnhem Land, 520km east of Darwin. After moving to Darwin and graduating from school, Dotty started her training journey through a traineeship, completing a Certificate III in Business Administration. When a role at Outback Stores became available, Dotty continued her training journey by completing a Certificate IV in Retail Management and Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. Currently completing a Certificate IV in Leadership and Management, Dotty believes she wouldn’t be where she is today without the skills, knowledge and confidence training has given her.

#### JUSTIN DREW

**Qualification: Diploma of Government**

**Employer: Services Australia**

**RTO: Canberra Institute of Technology**

**ACT**

Justin is a proud Yamatji man from Geraldton, Western Australia. He moved to Canberra when he was accepted into the Indigenous Apprenticeship Program with the Canberra Institute Technology. Justin chose the Diploma of Government for the foundations of good governance and integrity in the public service. The diploma elevated Justin’s work to the next level and helped him build innovative solutions that are community centric. Justin is an advocate of the promotion and development of public health initiatives, sharing this widely with his Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander networks to increase awareness of public health services.

#### JADE BARRINGTON

**Qualification: Certificate II in Business Services**

**Employer: Department of Education NSW**

**Host employer: Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council**

**RTO: The Illawarra ITeC Ltd**

**NSW**

During her HSC years, Jade undertook a School-based Traineeship to support her entry into university. With hopes of becoming a Primary School Teacher, Jade studied a Certificate II in Business Services; gaining invaluable knowledge, experience and confidence through working with the NSW Department of Education. With a passion for teaching, Jade volunteers her time to tutor younger students at the Wreck Bay Community Centre, and strives to be a role-model to the younger members of her community.

#### ATAHNEE SIMPSON

**Qualification: Certificate III in Business Administration**

**Employer: Indigenous Apprenticeship & Traineeship Network (IATN)**

**Host employer: Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning**

**RTO: Work Skills**

**QLD**

Atahnee is a proud Wakka Wakka and Jinibara woman. She recently completed a Certificate III in Business Administration while employed at the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. Atahnee chose a traineeship because it allowed her to gain a nationally accredited qualification while maintaining paid employment that would help her to support her young family.

#### DESIRAE KILDUFF

**Qualification: Diploma of Leadership and Management/ Diploma of Human Resource Management**

**Employer: Maxima Group (Australia)**

**RTO: Bendigo TAFE**

**VIC**

Desirae has a strong desire for two things—learning and being a leader for First Nations people. On completing a Traineeship at ANZ bank, Desirae took on a role as an Employment Consultant at Maxima Group, a group training organisation that provides Indigenous Employment Programs. After completing a Diploma of Business, Desirae embarked on an Indigenous leadership program, and has since completed a Dual Diploma in Leadership and Management/Human Resource Management. In 2022, Desirae was promoted to Indigenous Program Manager SA/VIC/TAS at Maxima Group where she provides mentoring and coaching for Indigenous job seekers, trainees and employees.

#### WAYNE RYDER

**Qualification: Diploma of Leadership and Management**

**Employer: Palmerston Association**

**RTO: Australian Institute of Management, Western Australia**

**WA**

From school captain to captain of his football team, Wayne has paved the way for Aboriginal men walking a similar journey. One of his proudest achievements was creating the Waakal Moort Kaadadjiny Festival, a health and wellbeing festival for at-risk Aboriginal people. Wayne began working for Palmerston Association as a Community Aboriginal Worker, supporting individuals affected by drugs and alcohol. He later won a scholarship to study a Diploma of Leadership and Management with the Australian Institute of Management.

#### ANGELINA DUNNETT

**Qualification: Certificate III in Community Services**

**Employer: Regional Anangu Services Aboriginal Corporation**

**RTO: TAFE SA**

**SA**

Angelina is an Anangu woman who lives and works in the remote desert communities of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) lands in the far northwest of SA. “Finding good jobs out here is hard. You need to have good training and education,” Angelina says. Angelina works as a Coordinator with the community patrols program, helping to keep children, young people and communities safe. Angelina has now completed the Certificate II and Certificate III in Community Services through TAFE SA.

# TRAINEE OF THE YEAR AWARD

**The Trainee of the Year Award is presented to an individual who is undertaking a traineeship and has been outstanding in all aspects of their training.**

## The Finalists

#### NATASHA ROBINS

**Qualification: Certificate III in Dental Assisting**

**Employer: Work & Training**

**Host employer: Hopkins Dental**

**RTO: TasTAFE**

**TAS**

Fresh out of nearly eight years in the hospitality industry Natasha went looking for something different to take a professional step forward in her life. Natasha came to the dental industry by accident. She approached training provider Work & Training about doing a business traineeship but was advised she was over-qualified. Then a chance conversation with one of the consultants provided an entrée to the dental industry where she gained a traineeship with Hopkins Dental. She says her traineeship had the greatest impact on her life – “It challenges me every day and provides the most rewarding feeling at every step.”

#### SARAH PETTIFER

**Qualification: Certificate III in Business**

**Employer: GTNT Group**

**Host employer: NT Department of Corporate and Digital Development**

**RTO: GTNT Training**

**NT**

When Sarah was young she thought a 9–5 job would be tedious, but it took a traineeship to realise she couldn’t be more wrong. After competing high school in 2020, Sarah signed up for the Get SET in the NT Training to study a Certificate III in Business. Landing a full-time job in 2021 as an AO2 Workforce Relations Administration Assistant, Sarah impressed her colleagues so much she was promoted where she trained new starters and buddied with the School-based Trainee. Sarah now has a passion for Human Resources and plans to start her Certificate IV in Human Resources.

#### FRANCES ZEWE

**Qualification: Diploma of Government**

**Employer: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment**

**RTO: Wisdom Learning**

**ACT**

Frances graduated from the University of Sydney with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in December 2020. She worked for 6 years in invasive species management and the devastating impact on Australian biodiversity. Wanting to dive deeper into humane methods for controlling invasive animals and contribute more broadly to the field of animal welfare, Frances was drawn to the Australian Public Service but was unsure about pursuing a non-clinical veterinary career. Frances says: “The VET pathway changed my life as it helped me to bridge the gap between my veterinary clinical training and applying these skills to a public service career.”

#### MELLANIE SUTTON

**Qualification: Certificate IV in Local Government (Health and Environment)**

**Employer: Muswellbrook Shire Council**

**RTO: Arrow Collaborative Services Ltd**

**NSW**

Mellanie began her traineeship at Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC) as a trainee Environmental Health Officer. Whilst acquiring a diverse set of skills, Mellanie used her traineeship to help keep the community safe and move confidently towards her dream career. Completing a Certificate IV in Local Government, specialising in Health & Environment, Mellanie found the mixture of skills required in this field to be exactly the right challenge. During her traineeship, Mellanie used existing software skills to help streamline processes within MSC, improving efficiency for a range of everyday procedures

#### TONY KARAMATIC

**Qualification: Diploma of Project Management**

**Employer: Albem Operations**

**RTO: Civil Contractors Federation**

**QLD**

Over more than 17 years with Albem Constructions, Tony has continued to upskill and engage in professional development opportunities that have improved both his work and the business. In his current role as safety and systems manager, Tony chose to undertake a Diploma of Project Management to ensure he had the required skillset to manage complex civil construction projects from planning to completion. Tony is now a mentor to others who have aspirations to develop higher level skills.

#### FRANCHESCA MORRELL

**Qualification: Certificate III in Dental Assisting**

**Employer: Bendigo Health**

**RTO: Bendigo TAFE**

**VIC**

Working as a dental assistant, Franchesca’s goal is to make the experience of visiting the dentist a pleasant one for her patients. Completing a Certificate III in Dental Assisting online through Bendigo TAFE, the course cemented her aspiration to become an oral health therapist. For Franchesca, dentistry wasn’t just a job, she chose her career because she wanted to help others. She’s involved in the government’s Smile Squad and Bendigo Health’s outreach team visiting schools and day care centres to educate children about oral health.

#### BRITTANY-LEIGH WRAGG

**Qualification: Certificate III in Defence Industry Pathways Program**

**Employer: Programmed Training Services**

**RTO: South Metropolitan TAFE**

**WA**

Being one of the first students to study a Certificate III in Defence Industry Pathways Program, Brittany cites the unwavering support from the team at South Metropolitan TAFE and Programmed Training Services that helped her feel confident about her chosen career pathway in a male-dominated industry. Brittany-Leigh has sampled different job roles while undertaking work placement rotations and gained real-life experience, all while building up a network of industry contacts. She hopes to begin an apprenticeship in defence on completion of her traineeship.

#### SARAH GRITT

**Qualification: Certificate IV Training and Assessment**

**Employer: Datacom Connect**

**RTO: TIME Education and Training**

**SA**

Sarah was employed as a customer service representative at Datacom Connect, Modbury in 2018. Having recently completed her traineeship, studying Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, Sarah has been promoted into a permanent full-time role as a Training Facilitator in Datacom’s Learning and Development team. After previously completing study in community and social services, Sarah wanted to find a work environment where she would be able to provide genuine care and support to callers, some of whom may be vulnerable or have complex needs requiring detailed solutions.

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# APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR AWARD

**The Apprentice of the Year Award is presented to an Australian Apprentice who has been outstanding in all aspects of their trade.**

## The Finalists

#### JACK WILSON

**Qualification: Certificate III Carpentry/Joinery**

**Employer: Crusader Homes**

**RTO: TasTAFE/Crusader Homes**

**TAS**

Jack says that mateship is one of the most important lessons he has learned from his experiences in becoming a qualified carpenter. Jack, who is from the small town of Broadmarsh in Southern Tasmania, was good with his hands while at school and in Year 10 was lucky enough to be chosen to be part of a Building for the Future work experience program which introduced him to the world of carpentry and led to an apprenticeship with New Norfolk based Crusader Homes. Jack has shown true leadership during his carpentry apprenticeship and has been able to extend his skills quickly, fostered by his employer’s focus on training.

#### MARY COULTER

**Qualification: Certificate III in Electrotechnology/Certificate III in Instrumentation and Control**

**Employer: GTNT Group**

**Host employer: Groote Eylandt Mining Company (GEMCO)**

**RTO: Charles Darwin University**

**NT**

Mary is a strong advocate for women in the electrical industry. A keen and fast learner with a strong work ethic, she started her apprenticeship with GTNT in the Power Careers Program. Previously, Mary had been working in retail/hospitality but wanted an occupation that would challenge her and give her the necessary skills for a successful career. She chose a dual qualified trade and now works with GEMCO where she has gained exposure to many areas within the electrical field. Throughout her apprenticeship at GEMCO, Mary has held various leadership roles, including delegating work to various contractors during a port shutdown and teaching younger apprentices basic electrical skills.

#### WILLIAM SHIPARD

**Qualification: Certificate III Carpentry**

**Employer: BBD Construction Pty Limited**

**RTO: Masters in Building Training**

**ACT**

When he finished high school in 2003, William wasn’t sure what to do next and undertook a range of jobs, including in hospitality, fitness and running his own business. He finally found his mark when he built a timber deck—he loved working with timber and decided that was the career he wanted. As a mature aged apprentice, William enjoyed the ability to study at his own pace. “I enjoyed the blended model of online learning, on-site training and workplace assessment and found extreme value in the training days MIBT offered throughout my apprenticeship”.

#### LACHLAN BUTLER

**Qualification: Certificate III in Engineering – Fabrication Trade**

**Employer: BOSS Engineering**

**RTO: Gimbal Engineering**

**NSW**

Having grown up on a farm, Lachlan discovered a natural affinity for metal work and a love of working with his hands. Embarking on his Certificate III in Engineering Lachlan specialised in the fabrication trade. Flourishing in his apprenticeship with BOSS Engineering, Lachlan quickly made himself invaluable, proving to be a dextrous team leader able to easily switch from one speciality to the next. A passionate advocate for addressing the skills shortage in rural Australia, Lachlan encourages others to pursue a trade career through VET, finding the hands-on training to be world class.

#### JENNAH HALLEY

**Qualification: Certificate III in Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration**

**Employer: Messina Airconditioning and Refrigeration**

**RTO: TAFE Queensland**

**QLD**

Jennah’s training journey started when her brother, also a refrigeration technician, asked her to help out a few hours a week. From there, Jennah grew a keen interest in the industry and, with the completion of her Certificate III in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration in 2021, she is believed to be the only qualified female refrigeration technician in Cairns – a statistic she’s hoping to help change.

#### CHHUNLY TAING

**Qualification: Certificate III in Civil Construction**

**Employer: John Holland Pty. Lt.**

**RTO: Holmesglen Institute**

**VIC**

As a woman working in a male-dominated industry Chhunly has faced plenty of challenges, but they have never stopped her pursuing her ideal career in the construction industry. Working as a Leading Hand on the Metro Tunnel project, Chhunly is a natural leader who’s making a real contribution to changing the way people view women in construction. She’s determined to break down gender barriers and is looking forward to a long career leading people of all genders in the construction industry.

#### MEGAN HAZELDEN

**Qualification: Certificate III in Engineering – Mechanical Trade (Mechanical Fitter ZA)**

**Employer: Alcoa**

**RTO: South Metropolitan TAFE**

**WA**

Growing up on a farm watching her parents work on machinery, Megan knew she wanted to become a mechanic. Now completing a Certificate III in Engineering, she is well on her way to reaching her goal of becoming a Mechanical Fitter at Wagerup Refinery. Throughout her apprenticeship, Megan has had the opportunity to represent women in the industry, presenting at schools and student career nights about career opportunities. Winning South Metropolitan TAFE’s Apprentice of the Year 2021 gave her the confidence to encourage women to apply for an apprenticeship in mechanical fitting.

#### MARK REYNOLDS

**Qualification: Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician**

**Employer: ATEC Group Training**

**Host employer: Rawsons Electrical**

**RTO: TAFE SA**

**SA**

Mark’s journey from finishing school to starting his electrical apprenticeship took him around the world and through a variety of professions over the course of 17 years. He is a passionate advocate for training, having completed two apprenticeships, an Advanced Diploma in Event Management, and studying film and television production. Mark considers himself an example to others that you’re never too old to learn a new skill, develop a new career, or start a trade.

# AWARD CATEGORY JUDGES

**Thank you to all the judges for volunteering your time and expertise in the 2022 Australian Training Awards.   
It is your significant professionalism, experience and dedication that makes the national judging process rigorous and equitable.**

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| --- | --- |
| Adam Weiderman | Kasey Hardy |
| Angela Croker | Kat Lawler |
| Angela Hope | Katherine Vickers |
| Anita Mills | Laura Angus |
| Anthony Millgate | Lewis Conn |
| Belinda Campbell | Lewis Brown |
| Ben Bardon | Linda White |
| Carmen Saunders | Lisa Dodds |
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| Chris Lehmann | Mark Harriott |
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| Deborah Simmons | Nadine Williams |
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| Fi Shewring | Robyn Beutel |
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| James Montgomery | Saxon Phipps |
| Jayne Miller | Skye Turner |
| Jenny Dodd | Steve Shearer |
| Jo Medlin | Trevor Schwenke |
| John Furness | Tricia Hennessy |
| Jonathan Atkins |  |
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# ****Congratulations to all the finalists****

The National Careers Institute (NCI) provides Australians with authoritative and accurate career information and support irrespective of age or career stage, so that people can make informed decisions about their education, training and career pathways.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All Australian Training Awards business and organisation category finalists are subject to extensive performance and regulation checks by the Australian Skills Quality Authority and using data from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER).



As the national vocational education and training regulator, ASQA is committed to ensuring quality so that students, employers, governments and the community have confidence in the integrity of qualifications issued by training providers.

NCVER is an independent, not-for-profit company owned by the Commonwealth and state and territory ministers responsible for vocational education and training. It is the national professional body responsible for collecting, managing, analysing and communicating research and statistics on the Australian VET sector

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