



Australian Government

AUSTRALIAN TRAINING AWARDS

REAL STORIES. REAL ACHIEVEMENTS.



STEVEN ATKINS

2014 VET TEACHER/TRAINER OF THE YEAR

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

State or territory training award winners of this category are automatically finalists for the Australian Training Awards and will compete at the national level.

Steven Atkins has been employing his trade qualifications in commercial cookery for 15 years across a range of environments, including a 400 seat function centre, an award-winning a la carte restaurant, a café and the Educational College Restaurant. Over the past 11 years, Steven has delivered all the core units and many of the electives in the Certificates III and IV in Commercial Cookery at TAFE NSW - Western Sydney Institute.

In 2014, Steven was named the most outstanding VET teacher/trainer in Australia at the Australian Training Awards.

"It is an amazing honour to be named the national VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year. Winning the award has given me the opportunity to communicate with a larger audience around the benefits

of vocational education and training and the important role that skills based training plays in the betterment of people's lives," Steven said.

Steven's teaching extends beyond the institute's campus. Over the past five years he has designed a number of healthy eating plans for the local Indigenous community, with the intention of reducing Type 2 diabetes through the preparation of low sugar diets.

"I have always had a passion for teaching and I like to implement flexible and innovative ways for assessment and learning activities. It is important for skills based assessment to be conducted in a way that is both relevant to industry and the learner," he said.

Noting the financial pressures faced by some students, Steven led a resource

development project to provide Hospitality and Commercial Cookery students with resources developed in-house and supplied on a USB, which cost each student \$3 – a considerable saving on the previous cost of up to \$300.

"Being able to stand alongside a learner as their confidence in their own ability grows, and to then see them gain employment and witness the positive changes that it has on them as an individual is a true privilege. Quality skills training changes lives, the more we can do to equip Australians with the skills required by industry the better our future will be as a nation," Steven said.

ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN TRAINING AWARDS

Each year, the Australian Training Awards recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements of Australian Apprentices, vocational students, training practitioners, businesses, secondary schools, industry and registered training organisations for their contribution to skilling Australia.

The majority of the awards are the culmination of the state and territory awards programs with winners from each state and territory eligible to compete at the national level in aligned categories.

There are also seven award categories available by entering directly to the Australian Training Awards.

Individual

- Lifetime Achievement Award (**direct entry**)
- Australian School-based Apprentice of the Year Award
- Vocational Student of the Year Award
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Award
- Australian Apprentice (Trainee) of the Year Award
- Australian Apprentice of the Year Award
- VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year Award
- National Achievement Award (**direct entry**)
- Excellence in Language, Literacy and Numeracy Practice Award (**direct entry**)

Business

- Small Employer of the Year Award
- Employer of the Year Award
- Industry Collaboration Award
- Australian Apprenticeships - Employer Award (**direct entry**)
- Disability Training - Employer Award (**direct entry**)

Registered Training Organisation

- Small Training Provider of the Year Award
- Large Training Provider of the Year Award
- International Training Provider of the Year Award* (**direct entry**)
- School Pathways to VET Award (**direct entry**)

* Applications for this award are made directly to the Australian Training Awards in all states and territories except Western Australia where applications must be made direct to the WA Training Awards.

DISCOVER MORE OF THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF APPLYING FOR AN AUSTRALIAN TRAINING AWARD BY DOWNLOADING THE WHY APPLY FACT SHEET OR VISIT THE WHY APPLY PAGE OF THE AUSTRALIAN TRAINING AWARDS WEBSITE.

WHY APPLY?

The awards offer its participants Australia-wide recognition for exceptional training outcomes and an opportunity to become known as the best-of-the-best, nationally.

For individuals, the awards can open up networks and career opportunities within the business sector and provide you with the opportunity to become a national ambassador for skills to promote the vocational education and training sector at a national level.

For businesses and registered training organisations, the awards can propel you into the national spotlight positioning you as a front runner in skills and workforce development and leader in best practice which sets you apart from the competition and makes you an employer, or registered training organisation, of choice.

