When Metro Trains Melbourne won the contract to manage Melbourne’s busy metropolitan rail network in 2009 they were faced with a massive task involving the merging of four previously separate companies. For the Learning and Development team this meant finding commonality among the existing training cultures and bringing cohesion and consistency to learning for nearly 5000 staff working across station operations, train driving, project delivery, corporate management and maintenance of rail stock, tracks, signals and electrical infrastructure.

“When I came to the role seven years ago the most important activity was to bring four separate training departments together to work as one team and create a new vision,” said Nicole Sullivan, Metro Trains Manager, Learning and Development.

“Our winning of the Large Employer of the Year Award at the 2016 Australian Training Awards is validation of what the Learning and Development team have put in place and recognition of the expertise, effort and generosity of people in the industry who have helped us do something quite special.”

The result is the achievement of a number of “industry-altering” milestones: the establishment of a $3.5 million state of the art training academy; achievement of RTO status; qualifications for more than 2000 staff across a range of disciplines; design and delivery of new courseware contextualised for the rail industry; and, importantly for an inherently dangerous work environment, sweeping policy changes that led to a complete re-design of safety training courses.

“An important aspect of winning at the Australian Training Awards is the opportunity to highlight the value of training in building reputational excellence and our demonstrated commitment to providing accredited programs to our employees and contractors," said Nicole.

“Our industry is experiencing unprecedented investment in major projects, and we have built a strong foundation of skills from which we can begin the next transformation of our business.”
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)
- National Achievement Award (direct entry)
- Excellence in Language, Literacy and Numeracy Practice 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

Business
- Australian Apprenticeships – Employer Award (direct entry)
- Small Employer of the Year Award (direct entry)
- Medium Employer of the Year Award
- Large Employer of the Year Award
- Industry Collaboration Award

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

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

WHY APPLY?

The awards offer 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. This will set you apart from the competition and make you an employer or registered training organisation of choice.

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