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.

Established in 2013, the Barangaroo Skills Exchange revolutionised how workers engage with training and how employers’ workforce development needs are met. It was so successful that another Exchange was established in 2015 to support the development of the Darling Harbour precinct.

"We needed to develop something out of the box in order to bring together the myriad aspects of skilling and training for the construction phase of the multibillion dollar urban regeneration projects at Barangaroo and Darling Harbour," said Ron Wright, Project Manager, Skills Exchange Barangaroo and Darling Harbour.

In two years, 10,000 workers have undertaken formal skills training, resulting in over 16,000 accredited training outcomes ranging from Skills Sets to Advanced Diplomas. With a significant commitment by Lendlease to improving social equity, a key focus is providing foundation skills to vulnerable workers to improve literacy and numeracy skills.

Major building projects in Australia and internationally are now using the Skills Exchange model and Ron believes it is its proven capacity for replication which earned it the Industry Collaboration Award at the 2016 Australian Training Awards.

"We never dreamt that what was first started at Barangaroo would be replicated in other areas of Australia and overseas. It’s a credit to Lendlease that they have been very willing to share learnings with competitors in order to improve the culture and safety of the industry and build social equity. Its willingness to do this has had an impact right across the industry and to see other people taking on the model and using it to great benefit is really heart-warming."

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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
- VET Teacher/Trainer 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

**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.

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.

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