



Australian Government

**AUSTRALIAN
TRAINING
AWARDS**
2021

Thursday 18 November **2021**

For social media posts about the event, use the hashtag #ATA2021
For more information about the Australian Training Awards, visit australiantrainingawards.gov.au



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Department of Education, Skills and Employment acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, water and community.

We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the elders past, present and emerging. The Department of Education, Skills and Employment acknowledges diversity and respectfully uses both the terms 'Indigenous' and 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' interchangeably throughout this document.

MINISTER'S FOREWORD

Thank you for being a part of our world-class skills sector's 2021 Australian Training Awards!

This is our opportunity to shine a spotlight on those who have made a difference to our critical vocational education and training (VET) sector.

We recognise outstanding individuals, students, businesses and registered training organisations across the country.

These 75 finalists showcase the best in trades and skills, from hairdressing to hospitality, from carpentry to cyber-security.

This includes the first recipient of the new Outstanding Achievement in VET and Skills Sector Award, presented in recognition of an individual's outstanding leadership and contribution to the VET and skills sector for more than 15 years.

The Australian Training Awards also showcase the incredible commitment and professionalism of everyone in skills and training, during what's been a difficult year for so many people.

We pay tribute to everyone who went above and beyond in 2021.

To those who took a leap of faith and embarked on a new career, or teachers and trainers who kept their students engaged during lockdown.

To employers who helped train the next generation of workers and supported our skills-led economic future.

I thank you all.

My job since coming into this role has been to create more opportunities for Australians to upskill and reskill, which is at the heart of our Economic Recovery Plan as we build back from COVID-19.

The 2021 finalists are proof that there has never been a better time to employ an Australian, never a better time than right now to start a VET career.



The Australian Government is backing the VET sector with a record \$6.4 billion investment this financial year, because now, more than ever, we need a skills and training system that can meet the workforce needs of our country and a system that is working for students and employers.

The Government is funding a \$500 million expansion of the JobTrainer Fund, which is helping job seekers and school leavers to upskill and reskill through free or low-fee training, in conjunction with the states and territories.

JobTrainer offers certificates, diplomas and short courses in in-demand industries including health, aged and disability care, IT and trades, and has already achieved more than 255,000 enrolments so far.

This vital fund is supporting Australia's next generation of skilled workers so we can continue to future-proof our economy.

We are also expanding support to help apprentices finish their training while ensuring we continue to build the skills pipeline

delivered under the \$3.9 billion Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements program.

The \$716 million Completing Apprenticeship Commencements program will extend support into the second and third year of an eligible Australian Apprenticeship.

This investment is critical but it takes individuals, students, businesses, trainers and RTOs like yours for all this support to make a difference on the ground.

It is not only making a difference to our economy, but to the lives of countless Australians.

Our VET sector would be nothing without your dedication and commitment.

Congratulations again, and all the best for your future endeavours.

The Hon Stuart Robert MP
Minister for Employment, Workforce,
Skills, Small and Family Business

Australian VET Alumni

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 Alumni is a passionate community dedicated to showcasing the best that VET can offer.

The remarkable VET journeys of the finalists celebrated at the 2021 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.**

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|--------------------------------------|--|
| Master of Ceremonies | Andrea Burns |
| Acknowledgment of Country | Barry McGuire |
| Performances | North Metropolitan TAFE - The Curls Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts - Alanah Linn, Billy O'Connor, Chelsea Elder, Cleo Destouches, Danni Karmelich, Georga Raath, Liz Zardins, Matt Walker, Mia Deriu |
| Australian Government Address | The Hon Stuart Robert MP, Minister for Employment, Workforce, Skills, Small and Family Business |
| Host State Welcome | The Hon Sue Ellery MLC, Minister for Education and Training, Western Australia |

Order of Presentation

| | |
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| Achievement Award | Outstanding Achievement in the VET and Skills Sector Award |
| Employer Awards | Australian Apprenticeships – Employer Award Small Employer of the Year Award Medium Employer of the Year Award Large Employer of the Year Award Industry Collaboration Award |
| Registered Training Organisation Awards | School Pathways to VET Award Small Training Provider of the Year Award Large Training Provider of the Year Award |
| Individual Awards | Excellence in Language, Literacy and Numeracy Practice Award VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year Award Vocational Student of the Year Award Trainee of the Year Award Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Award Australian School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year Award Apprentice of the Year Award |

End of presentation

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT MINISTERS



THE HON STUART ROBERT MP
**MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, WORKFORCE,
SKILLS, SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS**



THE HON LUKE HOWARTH MP
**ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR YOUTH
AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**

STATE/TERRITORY MINISTERS



Victoria

The Hon Gayle Tierney MP

Minister for Training and Skills, Minister for Higher Education



New South Wales

The Hon Dr Geoffrey Lee MP

Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education



Queensland

The Hon Di Farmer MP

Minister for Training and Skills Development



South Australia

The Hon David Pisoni MP

Minister for Innovation and Skills



Western Australia

The Hon Sue Ellery MLC

Minister for Education and Training



Tasmania

Sarah Courtney MP

Minister for Skills, Training and Workforce Growth



Australian Capital Territory

Chris Steel MLA

Minister for Skills



Northern Territory

The Hon Paul Kirby MLA

Minister for Jobs and Training



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN THE VET AND SKILLS SECTOR AWARD

The Outstanding Achievement in the VET and Skills Sector Award recognises an individual 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.



DAVID COLLINS PSM

David Collins is a visionary and strategic leader, with the impact of his significant leadership being realised at the policy and practical level. He has crafted a vision for VET and skills which is future-looking and has influenced policy and practice nationally.

Since 2005 David has held many roles with the NSW Department of Education, and is respected and recognised as a leader by skills industries, stakeholders and interest groups for the breadth of his skills knowledge and his experience in leading vocational training in NSW.

David was responsible for the development and implementation of the Smart and Skilled reforms, which was the largest and most far reaching reforms of government-funded VET undertaken by a NSW Government in over 20 years. In 2018 David was awarded the Public Service Medal in recognition of his leadership and outstanding contributions which have shaped the NSW vocational education and training system into the world class system it is today.

In 2019 David was highly commended for his leadership skills when NSW experienced deadly bushfires, the worst drought on record and floods. David led the skills response by prioritising skills needs and ensuring local people could access skills training to assist in the disaster response after the fires.

This same ethos was used to respond to the large number of people who suddenly became unemployed due to COVID-19 and needed to be re-trained in sectors that remained resilient during the pandemic.

David has always advocated for his staff and is proud of their achievements. He is committed to skilling local communities so people get jobs in their local area, remain with their family and friends, and strengthen their communities.



AUSTRALIAN APPRENTICESHIPS - EMPLOYER AWARD

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

THE FINALISTS

Affinity Education Group

Queensland

Affinity Education Group is one of Australia's largest early education providers, employing over 3,000 dedicated workers across its 150 centres. Championing professional development, Affinity Education Group offers specialised internal training to develop skills and qualifications, and guide this generation of educators and the next.



Affinity Education
Group

WPC Group - ESSO Australia

Victoria

With almost 150 combined years of experience, WPC Group and Esso Australia PTY LTD joined forces to create a unique apprenticeship program based out of ESSO Australia's two major production sites. Boasting 100% apprentice and trainee retention, this program has excelled beyond its original scope and is a point of pride to all involved.



wpcgroup®

Apprenticeships & Traineeships

WA Department of Justice

Western Australia

The Department of Justice WA Corrective Services division undertakes a diverse role in managing the state's 7,100 adult prisoners located in 17 prisons across Western Australia. The Department of Justice WA was the first jurisdiction in Australia to successfully implement traineeships within prisons in 2020, with 38 different types of traineeships and apprenticeships on offer. Prisoner trainees are provided clear pathways on release, greatly reducing the risk of reoffending and improving each trainees' quality of life as well as contributing to safer, more resilient and richer families and communities.





SMALL EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

The Small Employer of the Year Award recognises a small business that employs 19 or fewer full-time equivalent employees, and has achieved excellence in the provision of nationally recognised training to its employees.

THE FINALISTS

My Kingdom for a Horse

South Australia

Founded in 2015, My Kingdom for a Horse is a city-based licensed café and coffee roastery that employs the equivalent of 12 full-time staff. In mid-2020, the business expanded to a second location, retaining all existing staff and creating opportunities for new team members—some unable to return home overseas due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Founder and qualified chef, Emily Raven's particular area of interest is retaining talent in the hospitality industry and elevating existing training for team members. Emily believes that a strong foundation in hospitality is one that is respected as a valid career choice and supported by employers with high quality training, mentorship and encouragement.

My Kingdom
for a Horse

Specialty
Coffee



Swell Constructions

Victoria

Swell Constructions is a Melbourne based, builder-led construction company that specialises in modern design and carpentry works. Small yet passionate, Swell Constructions is committed to providing outstanding results for their clients. Swell Constructions take their environmental responsibility seriously, partnering with Greenfleet, an environment non-profit and source of biodiverse carbon offsets, to reduce the impact of their operations on the environment.




Core Developments NQ

Queensland

Core Developments NQ is a family run business that places the contributions of its employees at the centre of everything it does. Core Development NQ attributes its strong employee retention and positive team environment to a commitment to training. The business is proud to have 100 per cent of its full-time staff undertaking nationally accredited courses to further their skills and knowledge.





MEDIUM EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

The Medium Employer of the Year Award recognises a medium business that employs between 20 and 200 full-time equivalent employees, and has achieved excellence in the provision of nationally recognised training to its employees.

THE FINALISTS

Pups4Fun

Australian Capital Territory

Pups4Fun was established in 2008 and is now the largest dog day care provider in Canberra. Pups4Fun cares for over 620 dogs each week through a range of services, including grooming, walking activities, playgroups and training. In 2020, Pups4Fun was part of a consultation group and worked closely with Skills Impact, Skills Canberra and CIT to support delivery of the Certificate II in Animal Studies and Certificate III in Companion Animal Care in the ACT region. This year, they have been able to enrol employees into the Certificate II in Animal Studies, including two Australian School-based Apprentices.



Robinson Civil Group

Queensland

Robinson Civil Group — or RCG — are a leading Queensland civil construction company based in the Tropical North. Within the last two years RCG has significantly increased its workforce and training budget, requiring a comprehensive training program to support staff in their ongoing professional development. RCG is proud to provide its employees with tailored training and development plans that suit their individual qualifications, experiences and career aspirations.



Consolidated Group

Western Australia

Consolidated Group is a Civil Earth Works and Plant Hire Services Company that has been resourcing the mining, government, transport, and construction sectors since 2013. The company began as a dry hire but began to win contracts that required wet hire (people and machines). The company is committed to constantly improving the capability of its employees, many of whom are from under-represented groups. Consolidated Group develop the skills of their workforce, and seek to find people with the right attitude, work ethic, resilience and personal skills to succeed.





LARGE EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

The Large Employer of the Year Award recognises a large business that employs 200 or more full-time equivalent employees, and has achieved excellence in the provision of nationally recognised training to its employees.

THE FINALISTS

SA Water

South Australia

SA Water provides a reliable supply of safe, clean water and a dependable sewerage system for more than 1.7 million people. Through vocational education and training—including trainee, apprentice and cadet programs—SA Water invest to train their workforce for the future. Over the past 18 months SA Water has developed a new competency-based training framework recognising the need for a Certificate III as the minimal qualification for every SA Water employee.



Peter Warren Automotive Holdings

New South Wales

The Peter Warren Automotive Group is one of the largest and most respected organisations in the Australian automotive industry. Founded by Peter Warren in a used car yard next to Liverpool station in 1958, the company moved to a 10-acre site on Warwick Farm in 1979. The south-west Sydney site has now grown to 22 acres. Dubbed Sydney's first 'auto mall,' the site boasts 13 new dealership franchises and two used car departments, including Ford, Mercedes-Benz, Chrysler, Volvo, Peugeot, Renault, and Fiat among many others.



Metro Trains Melbourne

Victoria

MetroTrains Melbourne (MTM) is the franchise operator contracted to run and maintain Melbourne's busy Metro Rail Network, providing network planning, service delivery, asset management and project delivery in order to connect people and places for a growing Melbourne. MTM is focussed on enhancing their customer's experience, improved service delivery and passenger satisfaction. MTM has a workforce of over 6,400 employees and continues to invest in traineeships with new trainees being recruited, up to double previously recognised levels.





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

Flinders University, BAE Systems Australia and TAFE SA: Diploma of Digital Technologies

South Australia

The Diploma of Digital Technologies is a collaboration between Flinders University, BAE Systems Australia and TAFE SA. It contributes to furthering sovereign capability, along with supporting innovation, continuous naval shipbuilding and upskilling the workforce to deliver superior capability to the Australian Defence Force. While the Defence industry has been a catalyst for the uptake of industry 4.0 technologies, the outcomes of the collaboration can be replicated in other industries, with the potential to increase the number of students in STEM and job ready industries. The program has also secured funding for women over the next four years to progress addressing the current under-representation of women in both engineering and defence.



Canberra Institute of Technology renewable Energy Industry Collaboration

Australian Capital Territory

The Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) Renewable Energy Industry collaboration is a joint approach to researching and building sustainable networks, training opportunities and career pathways for jobs in the global renewables industry. The program involves working with key global stakeholders to build Canberra's capacity as a national tertiary education and trades skills hub. CIT, Neoen and Vestas have formed a strong partnership through the establishment of the CIT Renewable Energy Skills Centre of Excellence and the CIT Renewables Board. Together, these organisations are delivering positive outcomes for students in industries with strong prospects. With a passion for the VET industry and climate, the group provides a platform to share the exciting opportunities associated with the renewables industry with the local community and schools.



Canberra Institute
of Technology

RTO Code 0101 | CRICOS No. 00001K



Queensland Water Skills Partnership

Queensland

The purpose of the Queensland Water Skills Partnership is to work together on activities that support all water industry staff to achieve the skills and experience required to deliver safe, secure and sustainable water and sewerage services across Queensland. Organisations with a specific interest in the development of skilling and training initiatives opt-in to the program through an annual membership. The Partnership currently has 51 participating organisations.





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 vocational education and training programs to secondary school students.

THE FINALISTS

Hunter Trade College Ltd

New South Wales

Hunter Trade College is an independent senior school and registered training organisation in the Hunter Region of NSW. Up to 175 students per year enrol in trade-focused Higher School Certificate programs at the college. The College is a not-for-profit charity governed by a board of voluntary industry and educational professionals. As an independent school, the organisation is responsible for all aspects of the student journey from recruitment to graduation. Since its establishment in 2006, approximately 2,255 students have participated in a unique blend of general, vocational and workplace learning.



St Raphael's Catholic School

New South Wales

Saint Raphael's Catholic School is a catholic, co-educational school situated in Cowra, a regional town in the Central West of NSW. Located in Wiradjuri Country, on the banks of the Lachlan River, the school draws students from the wider Lachlan Valley. Saint Raphael's Catholic School has a total enrolment of 437 students from Kindergarten to Year 12. Saint Raphael's partners with a number of local hospitality, construction, and primary industry businesses in order to facilitate training and workplace experience.



Geelong Industry Trade Training Centre

Victoria

The Geelong Industry Trade Training Centre (GITTC) was opened in 2012 to provide quality training to secondary school students in the northern suburbs of Geelong. The seven foundation schools have worked cooperatively over the last 10 years to provide and sustain the purpose-built trade training centre facility. The GITTC is entering its sixth year delivering VET in schools and is now a hub for 16 schools to access the VET Delivered to Secondary Schools programs in Victoria.



SMALL TRAINING PROVIDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Small Training Provider of the Year Award recognises a registered training organisation, delivering less than 50 qualifications, that offers a specific range of training products and services and demonstrates excellence and high level performance in all aspects of vocational education and training.

THE FINALISTS

Taminmin College

Northern Territory

Taminmin College is a comprehensive rural school-based RTO catering for 1,250 students from Years 7 to 12. It is located 40 kilometres south of Darwin in Humpty Doo, Northern Territory and has a 75 hectare mixed produce farm. The college offers a range of nationally accredited and recognised vocational education and training (VET) and secondary education courses spanning across many industries. Taminmin College is the largest school provider of VET programs and the only agricultural secondary school in the Northern Territory.



Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta

New South Wales

Located in the heart of Western Sydney in one of the fastest growing areas of NSW, the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) consists of 80 vibrant school communities, stretching from Dundas Valley, north to Richmond, west to Katoomba and south to Luddenham. These include 58 primary schools, 22 secondary schools, two trade pathway campuses, and multiple early learning and after-hours care centres boasting 43,000 students and almost 5,000 staff. The CEDP advocates that VET is for everyone. Determined to boost outcomes for students, employers and industry, CEDP's exceptional VET ecosystem delivers skills across a range of industries to meet business needs in the Western Sydney corridor while instilling in their students a love of life-long learning.



Builders Academy Australia

Victoria

Builders Academy Australia offers nationally accredited qualifications for the building and construction industry. Their model of learning is underpinned by a belief that builders are the best teachers of builders. This draws on traditional notions of a 'master and apprentice' type relationships, but also ensures that the most modern and current practices are at the core of teaching and learning.



LARGE TRAINING PROVIDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Large Training Provider of the Year Award recognises a registered training organisation, delivering 50 or more qualifications, that offers a broad range of training products and services and demonstrates excellence and high level performance in all aspects of vocational education and training.

THE FINALISTS

Batchelor Institute

Northern Territory

Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education is Australia's only Indigenous dual sector tertiary education provider. The organisation is realising its vision to be the First Australians' institution of choice, where truth, knowledge and wisdom meet. As a premier education, training and research organisation, Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education's work is framed and guided by providing training, research and lifelong education in line with what their students, families, partners and communities seek to strengthen culture, capability and capacity.



TAFE QLD

Queensland

TAFE Queensland operates across a network of more than 50 campuses, in the workplace, and online. Its current training curriculum spans across more than 520 programs, from entry level qualifications to higher education degrees. A state-wide delivery model supports its commitment to working with students from a range of socio economic and cultural backgrounds, as well as those in remote locations and students with diverse needs.



William Angliss Institute

Victoria

In 2020, William Angliss Institute marked its 80th year of providing education and training excellence in foods, tourism, hospitality and events. What had been planned as a year of celebration, became a year of change due to COVID-19. The pandemic highlighted the sustainability and resilience of the Institute to lead from the front. The Institute demonstrated delivery excellence in training and support services for students, partners and employees, no matter what challenges it faced, because it was ready and prepared to respond.





EXCELLENCE IN LANGUAGE, LITERACY AND NUMERACY AWARD

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

THE FINALISTS

NSW



CAMILLA PORTELA New South Wales
Employer: Navitas English

At Navitas English, Camilla Portela teaches a wide range of government-funded language and skills programs. Camilla has developed musical, interpersonal and kinaesthetic approaches to teaching that help keep students engaged and to see themselves as productive and capable individuals. Many of Camilla's students are refugees with learning and behavioural difficulties.

VIC



DEAN CHAMP Victoria
Employer: Box Hill Institute

Dean's career in teaching Language, Literacy and numeracy spans a quarter of a century. Working with the Box Hill Institute's Disability Enterprises team, Dean has demonstrated an extraordinary dedication to his students, going above and beyond throughout the pandemic to keep them engaged and ensure their education continuity.



VET TEACHER/ TRAINER OF THE YEAR AWARD

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

THE FINALISTS

SA



STUART RIMMINGTON South Australia
Employer: TAFE SA

After leaving school early due to illness and unable to follow a previously planned pathway into university, Stuart took his first steps into VET. The then 15 year old moved to regional Western Australia to learn cooking at TAFE. Now a lecturer with TAFE SA, Stuart says he proudly promotes VET and the careers and opportunities it opens to participants by introducing the concept of lifelong learning. Stuart's career aspirations grew through encouragement from his own TAFE lecturers. "If I can impact one student's future career the way my lecturers shaped mine, I will be able to retire knowing I've done something worthy."

TAS



ROY LEURS Tasmania
Employer: Australian Institute of Education and Training at Huonville High School/Huon Valley Trade Training Centre

Since 2012, when he created the Huonville High School Cookery program, Roy has been working in VET through the Huon Valley Trade Training Centre to improve the prospects for students in the food and hospitality sector. From the initial small group of adult learners, Roy has grown the capacity for the High School to offer quality hospitality training to the Huon Valley region. As part of the Huon Valley Trade Training Centre year 11/12 team, Roy has been heavily focused on using community and industry links to promote the role VET plays in improving the prospects of students, the school and the community.

NT



WENDY BLIGHT Northern Territory
Employer: Charles Darwin University

Moving independently to Alice Springs at aged 17, Wendy began a career in hospitality. At 30, she was running her own business. Realising her passion for accounting, she enrolled at Charles Darwin University with the goal of becoming a BAS agent and bookkeeper. "Learning in the VET environment was easy for me, I loved it and it became my happy place". After getting BAS registration, Wendy started training clients in accounting software. "I had my first taste of being a VET trainer, and loved it! I'm where I want to be – giving back and changing lives through VET!"

ACT



DAVID MOORE Australian Capital Territory
Employer: Marist College Canberra

David's teaching philosophy is to inspire young people to develop a life-long passion for cooking. He delivers hospitality qualifications to years 11 and 12 students through the VET in Schools program at Marist College Canberra and is committed to engaging with a wide range of industry partners to showcase the breadth of the hospitality industry. David's professionalism and passion for education has a positive impact on students' experiences at Marist and contributes towards a high volume of enrolments, year after year.

NSW



ERIN JACOB New South Wales
Employer: Central Coast Community College

Erin designs accredited and non-accredited programs for Central Coast Community College that engage and motivate students at risk. She enables students to gain qualifications so they can realise their potential. Erin's innovative Step Forward and Keep on Stepping programs successfully re-engage individuals in learning and facilitate pathways to education and employment. Erin is currently completing her Certificate IV in Community Services. She leads internal professional development and engages in ongoing skills development through Community Colleges Australia.

QLD



DANIELLE DIXON Queensland
Employer: The Institute of Culinary Excellence

Danielle Dixon has experience working in some of Australia's top restaurants, as well as in the Masterchef kitchen. She has excelled as a trainer at The Institute of Culinary Excellence (ICE) and was promoted to Executive Chef and Head of School in 2020. Through Danielle's initiative ICE transformed its teaching methods through the COVID-19 pandemic and migrated to online learning, saving countless apprenticeships and careers.

VIC



JULIE KRAMER Victoria
Employer: Bendigo TAFE

Julie began her teaching career as in-class support, assisting students to complete their studies in Certificate III in Aged Care. By completing a Certificate IV in Training & Assessment, she found her passion for teaching. "The Aged Care Community is one of the most vulnerable groups in our society. Teaching enables me to have direct input into ensuring they have professional, empathetic, passionate and respectful workers". Julie is consistently pursuing further learning opportunities to expand her skillset, determined to ensure her students receive the most current training practices so that they will provide the best possible care.

WA



MARYKE GRAY Western Australia
Employer: Central Regional TAFE

Maryke is passionate about ensuring students have the same opportunities to receive quality training and assessment, no matter where they live. A trainer in Conservation and Land Management, Horticulture and Aboriginal Ranger Programs at Central Regional TAFE, Maryke delivers the full range of qualifications from Certificate I to Diploma, utilising live work projects, some of which involve working at remote Aboriginal Communities throughout the Mid-West and Gascoyne.



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 in this category are automatically finalists for the Australian Training Awards and will compete at the national level.

THE FINALISTS

SA



THOMAS ALEXANDER South Australia

Qualification: Certificate II in Electrotechnology (Career Start)

Employer: PEER **Host Employer:** Ken Hall Plumbers **RTO:** PEER

In 2020 Thomas finished Year 12 and successfully completed a Certificate II in Electrotechnology (Career Start) through PEER'S VET in School program. "Undertaking my Certificate II course through PEER was a turning point for me," says Thomas. "It fuelled my passion for my chosen career path and has led to my electrical apprenticeship with PEER and my host employer, Ken Hall Plumbers."

TAS



GYPSY ROSE BLACKBERRY Tasmania

Qualification: Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care **Employer:** Toddle Inn Child Care Centre Operations **RTO:** TasTAFE

While at college, Gypsy Rose completed her Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care alongside work placement at the Toddle Inn Childcare Centre. It was shortly after working in the industry that Gypsy Rose fell in love with her job and knew this career path was the right one for her, leading to further her studies. On completion of her qualification, Gypsy Rose obtained casual employment at the Centre and commenced her Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care at TasTAFE, which she completed in July.

NT



MAKISHA TILMOUTH Northern Territory

Qualification: Certificate IV in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (Practice) **Employer:** Central Australian Aboriginal Congress **RTO:** Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education

Makisha Tilmouth is a local Arrente woman from Alice Springs. As a trainee Aboriginal Health Practitioner she completed a Certificate IV in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice. Since graduating she has registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and has a full-time position in a Child Health Outreach Program.

ACT



BANDA RAMADAN Australian Capital Territory **Qualification:** Certificate IV in Cyber Security **RTO:** Canberra Institute of Technology

Banda completed a Certificate IV in Cyber Security at the Canberra Institute of Technology. Previously, she taught computer science and software engineering courses at universities in Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Since moving to Australia, Banda has embraced the cyber security industry and is passionate about addressing skills shortages in the technology sector.

NSW



GABRIELLA ADELINE New South Wales **Qualification:** Certificate IV in Patisserie **Employer:** Icebergs Dining Room & Bar **RTO:** TAFE NSW

Gabriella graduated from university with a psychology degree, but found applying for jobs in her field unfulfilling and soon enrolled in a Certificate IV in Patisserie at TAFE NSW. "I decided to start again and build a career doing something I love," says Gabriella. "I knew I was on the right track when I explored how to become a pastry chef. I was excited and looking forward to the future."

QLD



HELEN MILLEN Queensland **Qualification:** Certificate III in Individual Support **Employer:** Flexi Choice **RTO:** ARC Training

After embarking on a career change, Helen decided to undertake training in her role as a disability support worker. Through dedication to her studies, Helen finished her 12-month course in just over six months — completing a Certificate III in Individual Support at the end of last year. Completing a formal qualification has given Helen an increased level of confidence in her role.

VIC



SAMANTHA DALY Victoria

Qualification: Certificate IV in Mental Health
Employer: Glady & Co Pty Ltd
RTO: Swinburne University of Technology

Samantha applied to study the dual Certificate IV in Mental Health and Mental Health Peer Work with Swinburne University of Technology in 2020, just as the COVID-19 pandemic began to sweep across the world. She lost her job like many Victorians, and used this moment as an opportunity to reflect on what it was she truly wanted in life while studying online, to learn how to provide practical support and genuine hope to others in need.

WA



ZOETUCKER Western Australia

Qualification: Certificate IV in Landscape Design
Employer: Patrick O'Neil Designs
RTO: South Metropolitan TAFE

Zoe decided to follow her passion and retrain with a Certificate IV in Landscape Design when she was ready to return to work after starting a family. Zoe relished the opportunity to develop her technical and project management skills which have allowed her creative talents to flourish. On completing the Certificate IV in Landscape Design and winning the WA Landscape Designer Award (student category) she plans to expand her practical industry experience for a few years before continuing her training.



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

SA



IRSHAD HAIDARI South Australia
Qualification: Certificate III in Individual Support **Employer:** Cara (Community Accommodation and Respite Agency)
RTO: Open Colleges School of Health

A disability support worker with Cara, Irshad completed his traineeship with Open Colleges School of Health in 2020, as part of a Skilling South Australia program designed to encourage people into lasting careers via traineeships and apprenticeships. Irshad works as part of a supported independent living team at Cara, providing in-home support in all areas of life to non-verbal individuals—including mealtime management, personal care, aqua therapy, community support and inclusion. “When you do this work, you have a profound impact on someone’s life. You are a trusted person in their lives, and you help them to become more independent and confident in their abilities,” says Irshad.

TAS



ASHLING CANNELL Tasmania
Qualification: Certificate III in Education Support **Employer:** Work and Training
Host Employer: John Paul II Primary Rokeby **RTO:** Work and Training

After years of volunteer and residential youth work, Ashling knew that working with children and disadvantaged youth was something she wanted to pursue as a career. She was successful in gaining a place in Certificate III in Education Support at host employer John Paul II Catholic Primary School in Rokeby, a suburb of Hobart. The Traineeship has changed Ashling’s life and her outlook. She finds every day rewarding as she works in a diverse environment - from day to day she could be supporting a student with disability, working with a group during a literacy lesson or helping a student who has become disengaged.

NT



LORRAINE RANDALL Northern Territory
Qualification: Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance **Employer:** IAHA Group Training **Host Employer:** Palmerston Regional Hospital **RTO:** Response Employment and Training

Lorraine is a Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara woman from Central Australia with family connections to Uluru, Badu Island and Point Pearce regions. She completed a Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance, choosing this course as she had always wanted to work as a health worker with Aboriginal Communities. “As an Aboriginal person who has grown up in the Northern Territory, I have a greater understanding of the experiences Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have had and continue to face.”

ACT



SOPHIE NEW Australian Capital Territory
Qualification: Certificate IV Education Support **Employer:** Monash Primary
RTO: Canberra Institute of Technology

Sophie is undertaking a Certificate IV in Education Support traineeship at the Canberra Institute of Technology and is employed by the ACT Education Directorate. She was working in telecommunications in the Australian Government before deciding she wanted a change. When Sophie was appointed as a learning support assistant at Monash Primary School, she instantly saw this was the career for her. Sophie believes the traineeship pathway has allowed her to learn from colleagues and develop professional confidence.

NSW



MEGAN COX New South Wales
Qualification: Certificate IV in Information Technology **Employer:** PwC Services
RTO: TAFE NSW

Megan's interest in IT was piqued while attending a future of female leadership forum. Successful female innovators spoke about the limitless opportunities in tech and inspired her to apply for the PwC Higher Apprenticeship Program. "I wanted an alternative pathway to university," says Megan. "The PwC program takes students straight out of high school and develops their skills across the business. I'm currently an assurance associate with PwC and I'm completing a Certificate IV in Information Technology through TAFE NSW."

QLD



MITCHELL POGAN Queensland
Qualification: Certificate III in Business
Employer: Western Downs Regional Council **RTO:** SportsReady Education and Employment

Mitchell wanted to find a career opportunity that would allow him to remain close to his home town of Miles QLD, while undertaking work that allowed him to give back to his rural community. Through his traineeship at Western Downs Regional Council, Mitchell was able to complete a nationally recognised qualification and has now obtained employment with Council as a Community Activations Support Officer.

VIC



SAMANTHA BROWN Victoria
Qualification: Diploma of Nursing
Employer: Ballarat Health Services
RTO: Federation University TAFE

Samantha worked for several years as a conveyancer and then in a fast-paced role managing a top hotel in Ballarat, before pursuing her long-standing interest in nursing. She tested the career change through the Traineeship model, first enrolling in a Certificate III of Individual and Ageing Support. This course convinced Samantha that she wanted to pursue a vocational training pathway, and she then enrolled in a Diploma of Nursing. "The Traineeship model was a perfect fit, as I learn best with hands-on experience. The opportunity to work within the field while studying was a major drawcard."

WA



AMBER UGLE-HAYWARD Western Australia
Qualification: Certificate III in Government
Employer: Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation
RTO: Aspire Performance Training

Having always wanted to pursue a career that was meaningful, challenging and would make a positive impact on the lives of many Western Australians, Amber applied for the Public Sector Commission's Aboriginal Traineeship Program, knowing it would give her a 'foot in the door' to government. Amber says the experience has allowed her to develop an awareness of how working in government can make a positive difference to the lives of people in the community. It has also helped to develop her confidence and communication skills to raise awareness of Aboriginal culture.



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 a course of study leading to a national qualification, and who demonstrates the importance of lifelong learning for themselves and their community.

THE FINALISTS

SA



TAMEEKA BAGNARA South Australia
Qualification: Certificate III in Hairdressing
Employer: Station 95 Hair and Beauty
RTO: The Parlour Hair Academy

Enrolled in the Certificate III in Hairdressing with The Parlour Hair Academy, Tameeka is employed with family owned and operated business, Station 95 Hair and Beauty Salon. As their first apprentice, Tameeka has been supported by her employer throughout her apprenticeship, taking up additional training opportunities to learn about new products and return her learning to the workplace. After completing her apprenticeship, Tameeka plans to study small business subjects through TAFE SA and continue her training journey with the aim of owning her own business, as well as a qualification in make up—positioning her to add further value for her clients.

TAS



DAVID LOWERY Tasmania
Qualification: Certificate IV in Forest Operations
Employer: Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre
RTO: TasTAFE

David chose to study Certificate IV in Forest Operations when he was working in the forest industry as a supervisor. Training helped him understand more about his position and how he could improve the way he worked in all aspects of the industry, from safety to the management of workers. Further study helped David gain more skills to move to a new position as Land Management Co-ordinator for the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre. Being able to work within the community, in an Aboriginal organisation, has been a great achievement for David, connecting more with his people, culture and country.

NT



JAHDAI VIGONA Northern Territory
Qualification: Certificate III in Community Services
Employer: GTNT Group
Host Employer: Menzies School of Health Research
RTO: Charles Darwin University

Jahdai, an Indigenous Trainee and Project Officer within the Freemasons Centre for Male Health and Wellbeing at Menzies School of Health Research, works on a range of projects relating to gambling and social and emotional wellbeing. Through his traineeship, Jahdai has found passion and drive to improve communities in the Northern Territory. “I want to be able to be a positive influence to young Indigenous and Torres Strait Islanders so that they hopefully can be inspired to dream big and work towards their goals”

ACT



PHILIP KHALU-REINDL Australian Capital Territory **Qualification:** Diploma of Government **Employer:** Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) **RTO:** CIT Solutions, Canberra institute of Technology

Philip completed the Diploma of Government in late 2020 with CIT Solutions as part of the Indigenous Apprenticeship Program. He is now a full-time employee at the AIATSIS. Philip helps people from the stolen generations to find information about their family, and feels this position is a chance to provide invaluable support and assistance to the community. Phillip's passion and drive is to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Through his training, Philip has gained a better understanding of how government operates to support communities.

NSW



ADAM HANSEN New South Wales **Qualification:** Certificate IV in Training and Assessment **Employer:** 3Bridges Community **RTO:**TAFE NSW

Adam is a proud Noongar man from Western Australia who now calls Sydney home. He is passionate about sharing Indigenous culture with people who may not be familiar with Aboriginal knowledge and is proud to bridge the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians. Adam has been delivering Aboriginal cultural competency workshops for more than 10 years and has worked with high schools to encourage Aboriginal participation in education. When a work colleague recommended a TAFE NSW qualification that would further enhance his skills, Adam jumped at it. "VET has qualified me to deliver workshops to a range of people and organisations and, in turn, make a huge impact on my community."

QLD



KASEY HARDY Queensland **Qualification:** Certificate III in Workplace, Health and Safety **Employer:** Harness Energy Services **Host Employer:** Shell QGC **RTO:** Harness Energy Services

For Kasey, a traineeship offered the perfect opportunity to work in the real world. Kasey chose the resources sector to learn more about natural gas extraction, particularly about its impact on the environment and, through another traineeship, is now continuing her Workplace Health and Safety studies.

VIC



LUCAS PRICE Victoria

Qualification: Certificate IV in Community Services **Employer:** Department of Justice and Community Safety **RTO:** Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association Limited (VACSAL)

Lucas is a proud Gunditjmarra man from the Framlingham mission. He completed a Certificate IV in Community Services and works for the Department of Justice and Community Safety as an Aboriginal Liaison Officer. Lucas is passionate about reducing the detrimental impacts of the cycle of incarceration and involvement in the justice system on his community, in particular for Aboriginal youth within custodial centres. "I want to see my community thrive and reach their full potential!"

WA



KEVIN WILSON Western Australia

Qualification: Advanced Diploma of Graphic Design **Employer:** Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia Operations **RTO:** North Metropolitan TAFE

Growing up a Wongai man in the Goldfields region of Western Australia, Kevin has always been interested in art and design—although early on, his outlet was graffiti. He completed an Advanced Diploma of Graphic Design and has since started his own graphic design firm, Nani Design, staffed by Aboriginal people and designing for projects that promote Aboriginal tourism and business.



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

SA



RACHAEL KELLY South Australia
Qualification: Certificate III in Business
School: Grant High School **Employer:** Group Training Employment
Host Employer: Key 2 Sale **RTO:** Limestone Coast Training

In 2021, Rachael is working to complete Year 12, while simultaneously undertaking a 12-month Certificate III in Business traineeship with Key 2 Sale. After her schooling, Rachael hopes to continue her career at Key 2 Sale and undertake further training. As high school captain, Rachael actively supports change through increasing opportunities for students to have a voice and be heard. The vision for a student-led development team evolved out of her merit-winning Year 12 research project, a legacy she hopes will demonstrate the power students hold when their leadership skills are encouraged.

TAS



SOPHIE FURPHY Tasmania
Qualification: Certificate III in Individual Support **School:** Smithton High School
Employer: Emerton Park Inc. **RTO:** Australian Employment and Training Solutions

As a Year 12 student in 2020 Sophie began her School-based Traineeship at Emmerton Park, the only residential aged-care facility in the Circular Head district. Sophie's long-term goal is to be a Registered Nurse. Instead of choosing a purely academic pathway to university, Sophie thought the school-based traineeship would provide her with an insight into working in the health industry as well as valuable practical experience. Sophie also sees the role as an opportunity to give back to her community by supporting the people who have helped shape Circular Head.

NT



ELYSSIA TALLON ROSAS Northern Territory **Qualification:** Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance **School:** Haileybury Rendall School **Employer:** IAHA Group Training **Host Employer:** Palmerston Regional Hospital **RTO:** Response Employment & Training

Elyssia is undertaking a School-based Apprenticeship, studying for a Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance, as well as completing Year 12 studies at Haileybury Rendall School in Darwin. Undertaking this pathway has allowed Elyssia to remain in school whilst nurturing her passion for Indigenous Health, providing her with the skills and experience of classroom study and on the job placements to determine which field she would like to work in.

ACT



HANNAH HOLFORD Australian Capital Territory **Qualification:** Certificate III in Individual Support **School:** Lake Tuggeranong College **Employer:** Australian Training **Host Employer:** Baptist Care Carey Gardens **RTO:** Quest Training Solutions

Hannah completed the Certificate III in Individual Support with Quest Training Solutions. She is employed by the Australian Training Company and has undertaken her work placement at Carey Gardens, in association with Baptist Care. Hannah has been involved in volunteering since Year 9 and she is always looking for ways she can make a difference to her community. Hannah uses her passion and energy to brighten the lives of elderly residents in aged care. She believes that every stage of life should be treated with dignity, respect and love. She appreciates the opportunity to learn from and work with older Canberrans, and is an advocate for increasing the number of people taking up a career in aged care.

NSW



CHELSEA MCINNES New South Wales **Qualification:** Certificate II in Hospitality **School:** Alstonville High School **Employer:** The Trident Fish & Grill **RTO:** Public Schools NSW, Tamworth

Chelsea completed a Certificate II in Hospitality as part of a School-based Traineeship at Alstonville High School. "My passion is to serve my community through food. Being able to combine my HSC, work and a trade qualification has made school much more interesting. I've also gained a mentor and a serious head start in a career I love." Chelsea volunteers for her school's fundraising committee, enjoys leading younger students as a house sports captain and runs the school's breakfast club, providing free breakfast for those who go without.

QLD



BREE CONNELL Queensland **Qualification:** Certificate III in Barbering **School:** Flagstone State Community College **Employer:** Murphy's Barber Shop **RTO:** MiG Training Group

Bree Connell's schooling turned a corner when she enrolled in a Certificate II in Salon Assistant. This small step towards her goal of being a barber ignited her passion for training and helped her re-engage with education. With improved attendance and achievement in the classroom, Bree's trainer was delighted and supported her to begin a school-based apprenticeship at Murphy's Barber Shop.

VIC



LAURA DAVIDSON Victoria

Qualification: Certificate III in Hairdressing

School: Mildura Senior College

Employer: Studio 40 Hair and Beauty

RTO: Sunraysia Institute of TAFE

Laura is completing her Year 12 VCE at Mildura Senior College, while employed as an apprentice hairdresser at Studio 40 Hair and Beauty. "My passion for hairdressing started at age nine. When I went to the hairdressers, I would tell them I wanted to work there when I grew up."

WA



COURTNEY SHORT Western Australia

Qualification: Certificate III in Commercial

Cookery **School:** Mercy College

Employer: Hospitality Group Training

Host Employer: Pan Pacific Perth

RTO: North Metropolitan TAFE

Preparing meals with and for her family has always brought great joy to Courtney, so it seemed a natural fit to enrol in the Certificate III in Commercial Cookery. Successfully juggling her school-work at Mercy College with an apprenticeship through North Metropolitan TAFE, Courtney says the knowledge and skills she has already gained by working alongside chefs at Pan Pacific Hotel are essential for working in the industry.



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

SA



HARRISON SANDERS South Australia
Qualification: Certificate III in Carpentry
Employer: Hofmann Building Services
RTO: East Vocational College

Harrison's VET journey began in Year 11 when he undertook a Certificate II in Construction Pathways, following it with the completion of a partial Certificate III in Carpentry while completing Year 12. For the past five years, he has worked for Barossa Valley builder, Hoffmann Building Services. While completing his carpentry apprenticeship, he also commenced a Bachelor of Secondary Education at the University of South Australia. Harrison's goal is to become a positive inspiration through his teaching, influencing students to be successful, critical, and creative individuals.

TAS



SOPHIE RUSSELL Tasmania
Qualification: Certificate III in Carpentry
Employer: VEC Civil Engineering
RTO: TasTAFE

After commencing a carpentry apprenticeship as a school leaver, Sophie knew this was the profession for her. Sophie believes that having a can-do positive attitude, coupled with a willingness to give anything a crack, continues to grow her success. She believes learning and development is vital to success in her industry and she publicly supports apprenticeship programs. Sophie now assists and mentors aspiring carpenters - guiding them through the complexities of training and balancing work life, especially after leaving school.

NT



SAVANNE CANOBIE Northern Territory
Qualification: Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician
Employer: Rio Tinto
RTO: Charles Darwin University

Savanne has completed her Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician qualification at Rio Tinto Gove Operations in North East Arnhem Land. Raised and educated in the town of Nhulunbuy, she is an active member of the community through sports and community events. Savanne is a mentor to new apprentices and has career aspirations to become qualified in a dual trade in Electrotechnology and Instrumentation and Control. Savanne is a role model for other women considering an Electrical career in the mining industry and actively promotes female apprentices joining Rio Tinto Gove Operations.

ACT



MORGAN SUTTON Australian Capital Territory **Qualification:** Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician **Employer:** P&T All Trades Pty Ltd **RTO:** Canberra Institute of Technology

Morgan completed her Certificate III in Electrotechnology with Canberra Institute of Technology after changing careers and starting an electrical apprenticeship with P&T All Trades Pty Ltd. Morgan saw the opportunity to gain an electrical license as an essential condition to creating her own business. She also took on the opportunity to enter a traditionally male industry as a mature aged student and didn't let anything stop her. Morgan is determined and committed to learning. She is an advocate for people of any age or gender chasing their dreams.

NSW



TROY HARRIS New South Wales **Qualification:** Certificate III in Plumbing **Employer:** A P Bathrooms **RTO:** TAFE NSW

Troy undertook an apprenticeship with AP Bathrooms and studied a Certificate III in Plumbing at TAFE NSW. He found the TAFE NSW practical rooms offered crucial resources he didn't have at work. "They gave me an opportunity to try different aspects of the plumbing trade," says Troy. "I discovered my strengths, worked on my weaknesses and developed my passions." Troy plans to pursue a Certificate IV in Plumbing. Knowing his teachers are industry professionals has also encouraged him to work towards vocational teaching so he can mentor the next generation of plumbers.

QLD



LAUREN CAMPBELL Queensland **Qualification:** Certificate III in Air-conditioning and Refrigeration **Employer:** A.G. Coombs (QLD) Pty Ltd **RTO:** Box Hill Institute

Lauren Campbell has been hooked on the refrigeration trade since she undertook work experience with her employer AG Coombs Queensland while still in Year 12. She applied for an apprenticeship with them just a few months after graduating and hasn't looked back since. This year, she completed her Certificate III in Air-conditioning and Refrigeration and is delighted to be employed as a fully-qualified tradesperson.

VIC



ANDREW JAN Victoria

Qualification: Certificate III in Plumbing

Employer: Macedon Ranges Plumbing

RTO: Bendigo TAFE

Andrew has had wide-ranging life experience prior to becoming a mature aged apprentice in his 30s. He had an extensive career in the thoroughbred industry and after 18 years as a volunteer firefighter, he has risen to the highest rank of Group Officer of the Coliban Group of the Country Fire Authority. In choosing to study a Certificate III in Plumbing at Bendigo TAFE, Andrew was motivated to find a career that provided both stability and an environment that challenged his innate curiosity and problem-solving skills.

WA



CHRISTIAN FERRONE Western Australia

Qualification: Diploma in Aeroskills

(Mechanical) **Employer:** ExecuJet MRO Services Australia PTY LTD **RTO:** Aviation Australia PTY LTD

With a love of aeroplanes, Christian had always wanted to work in the aviation industry but his initial dream of becoming a pilot was shattered when he learned he was colour blind. Disappointed but not beaten, he funnelled his enjoyment of mechanics and a natural curiosity of how things work into pursuing a career as an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer. Now employed by ExecuJet MRO Services Australia – where he completed his apprenticeship – he has come to realise that this career option actually suited him better.

JUDGES

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Linda White | Australian Government |
| Andrew Wyman | ACT Government |
| Peta Skujins | The Australian Apprenticeships and Traineeships Information Service |
| Caitlin Radford | 2020 Apprentice of the Year |
| Tiffany Blight | Australian Government |
| Warren Hill | Victorian Government |
| Fi Shewring | Supporting And Linking Tradeswomen Inc |
| Sebastian Connor | 2020 Australian School-based Apprentice of the Year |
| Elizabeth McAllister | Australian Government |
| John Furness | Tasmanian Government |
| Chris Lehmann | Tradesmen on Time - 2017 Small Employer of the Year |
| Breanna Cassidy | 2020 Trainee of the Year |
| Adam Weiderman | Australian Government |
| Lisa Dodds | Northern Territory Government |
| Scott Wilson | Year13 |
| Heetham Hekmat | 2020 Vocational Student of the Year |
| Bruce Needham | Australian Government |
| Angela Bond | Western Australia Government |
| John Hutchinson | Australian Institute of Sport |
| Kevin Nunn | 2020 VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year |
| Belinda Campbell | Australian Government |
| Denita Wawn | Master Builders Australia |
| Matthew Scrimgeour | Fairbrother - 2020 Australian Apprenticeship - Employer Award Winner |
| Jason Coutts | Australian Government |
| Troy Williams | Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia |
| Susan Watts | St Paul's College Kempsey - 2020 School Pathways to VET Award Winner |
| Melinda Hatton | Australian Government |
| Steve Shearer OAM | South Australian Government |

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Sally Sinclair | National Employment Services Association |
| Josh Furness | Kent Saddlery - 2020 Small Employer of the Year |
| Katerina Lawler | Australian Government |
| John Suthers | Queensland Government |
| Dianne Dayhew | National Apprenticeship Employer Network |
| Jenny Dodd | TAFE Directors Australia |
| Angela Hope | Australian Government |
| Lena Constantine | Industry Skills Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA |
| Pamela Simon | Enterprise Registered Training Organisation Association |
| Darren Gaunt | Australian Government |
| Christopher Davis | New South Wales Government |
| Jenny Lambert | Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry |
| Aaron Superina | Outside Ideas - 2020 Medium Employer of the Year |
| Shannon Yates | Australian Government |
| Lisa Dodds | Northern Territory Government |
| Peter Canavan | Australian Industry Group |
| Angela Coker | SA Power Networks- 2020 Large Employer of the Year |
| Libby Doughty | Tasmanian Government |
| Ben Bardon | National Australian Apprenticeships Association |
| Michael Hamilton | Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education |
| Nadine Williams | Australian Government |
| Mary Campbell | 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient |
| Wayne Collyer | 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient |
| Brigitte Bergin | Australian Government |
| Jo Medlin | Australian Council for Adult Literacy |
| Rachel Leigh Taylor | 2020 Excellence in Language, Literacy and Numeracy Practice Award Winner |
| Raj Martin | Australian Government |
| Grant Stidiford | Queensland Government |
| Charlene Davison | GO Foundation |
| Lisa Cherie Birnie | 2020 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year |



Gloria Viggiano



Connor Pitts-West

NORTH METROPOLITAN TAFE

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS



Alanah Linn



Billy O'Connor



Chelsea Elder



Cleo Destouches



Danni Karmelich



Georga Raath



Liz Zardins



Matt Walker



Mia Deriu

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).



Australian Government
Australian Skills Quality Authority

As the national regulator for Australia's VET sector, ASQA works to ensure that training providers and courses meet national quality standards. ASQA also seeks to make sure that the VET sector is providing Australian employers with graduates who have the right skills and competencies to meet industry needs.



NCVER

NCVER is a not-for-profit company owned by the Commonwealth and state and territory ministers responsible for vocational education and training.

It is a professional and independent body responsible for collecting, managing, analysing, evaluating and communicating research and statistics about VET nationally.



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