



Australian Government

AUSTRALIAN
TRAINING
AWARDS

REAL STORIES. REAL ACHIEVEMENTS.



MARKEETA DOUGLAS

2013 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDENT OF THE YEAR

QUALIFICATION:
CERTIFICATE IV IN
AUDIOMETRY

**REGISTERED TRAINING
ORGANISATION:**
TAFE NSW – WESTERN
SYDNEY INSTITUTE

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Award recognises the achievement of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander student who displays a strong understanding and knowledge of the vocational education and training system and demonstrates the relevance of lifelong learning for themselves and their community.

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

Markeeta Douglas' interest in audiometry started at a young age, having suffered from ear infections for the majority of her childhood. Fast forward a few years, Markeeta's interest was re-ignited when her four-year-old son was to undergo surgery for a serious middle ear infection.

Markeeta took the next steps to enrol at TAFE NSW – Western Sydney Institute to complete a Certificate IV in Audiometry. The 30-year-old studied by distance education through WSI's Open Training and Education Network (OTEN) and believes her training has opened up many opportunities for her to boost the health of local Aboriginal people.

Markeeta is now employed as an audiometrist at the Awabakal Cooperative in Newcastle, an organisation that is leading the way in Aboriginal ear health in New South Wales and beyond.

Her outstanding efforts in her studies saw her win the coveted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year at the 2013 Australian Training Awards.

"It is amazing to be able to represent not only vocational education and training and the health industry, but also my community, family and Aboriginal culture.

"Finalist week leading up to the Australian Training Awards was one of the best weeks in my life.

To bond with my category finalists, meeting the young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people – the best in their state – is such a privilege and a once in a lifetime opportunity.

"My experiences with vocational education and training have helped me grow so much as a person. I am now much more confident within myself and I have a real passion for sharing my knowledge with others," Markeeta said.

Markeeta uses her experience to promote vocational education and training as a pathway to learning and career progression, and the importance of education and health in the Aboriginal community.

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
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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.

