



Australian Government

AUSTRALIAN
TRAINING
AWARDS

REAL STORIES. REAL ACHIEVEMENTS.



JACKY CHENG

2013 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.

Broome visual arts lecturer, Jacky Cheng delivers vocational education and training (VET) courses in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture arts, visual arts, contemporary craft and arts administration.

Her career pathway to this position began when she visited Broome on a holiday while taking a break from her life as an architect and university lecturer in Sydney.

"While on holiday, I fell in love with the creative spirit present in Broome, the beautiful township and the diverse and interesting people. So I made the move. I knew it was a place I could unleash my creativity. I never knew then such a rewarding career path would follow," Jacky said.

That rewarding career path saw Jacky win the VET

Teacher/Trainer of the Year at the 2013 Australian Training Awards.

"It is an honour to be amongst the best of the best and being recognised as the best of your area as a trainer," Jacky said.

In addition to course delivery at the Kimberley Training Institute located in Broome, Jacky also delivers VET courses in the remote Bidyadanga community, at the Broome Regional Prison and other sites across the east and west Kimberley region.

She teaches a diverse range of learners from teenagers to elderly people, with varied life experiences and cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Working with a diverse group of students in remote situations, led Jacky to develop innovative and adaptive training styles which range from learning

the language of her learners, engaging Aboriginal students through storytelling, to establishing online learning methods for those who cannot attend classes.

"In the community we don't often have a classroom to go to. Sometimes sitting under a tree is the next best thing, or going fishing and storytelling. Throwing a line in the water and students start engaging and saying 'oh this is what my grandmother used to do' and that evokes the passion and memories of what life is all about for them and then it results in a piece of artwork.

"Students are the best teachers! As teachers, we should open our hearts and learn from them – it is so rewarding," Jacky 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.

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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.

