



## Local champions

The virtual spotlight shone bright on our regions' top training talent last month, with the 2021 Queensland Training Awards regional finals held online.

Congratulations to all the regional winners and finalists celebrated as part the seven regional final videos that premiered in July — now available to [view on-demand](#).

The awards highlight the great diversity of regional workforces, recognising top apprentices, trainees, trainers, VET students and employers, as well as innovative training initiatives, across a range of industries.

Among the regional winners were North Coast Vocational Student of the Year Mikayo Mundy (pictured below), who converted to distance education in Year 7 to train full-time as a professional wakeboarder. This path lead Mikayo to a Diploma of Screen and Media, fast-tracking him to further studies and his dream career.

In North Queensland, TAFE Queensland's Valerio Esposito (pictured) was named the VET Teacher or Trainer of the Year for creating a positive and inclusive learning environment, and sharing his passion for cooking with the next generation of kitchenhands and chefs. While The Institute of Culinary Excellence's Danielle Dixon (pictured), who has worked in some of Australia's top restaurants as well as in the MasterChef kitchen, won the trainer category for the Metropolitan region.

Among employers to receive top honours were Roma's Queensland Country Meats in Darling Downs South West's small employer category and Queensland Alumina Limited's Gladstone refinery in Central Queensland's large employer category — recognising a common commitment to highly skilled and supported workforces across the state.

Discover full lists of regional winners and finalists here:

- [Tropical North Queensland](#)
- [North Queensland](#)
- [Central Queensland](#)
- [Darling Downs South West](#)
- [North Coast](#)
- [Metropolitan](#)
- [South East](#).

Keep the applause rolling for our regional winners and now state finalists on Skills for Queensland [Facebook events](#).

**Congratulations to all our regional finalists and winners!**



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## State final update

Given the current health directions in Queensland around COVID-19, the QTA team are currently working to confirm the safest way to hold the award celebrations this year and to give all participants greater certainty. This includes how we will celebrate this year's awards and when the awards be held.

Rest assured, we will definitely celebrate and shine the spotlight on our amazing state finalists and event partners in our special 60th anniversary year.

Full details will be provided via QTA News when confirmed.

Finalists in the state-only categories will also be announced soon - so stay tuned for more exciting state final news!

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## Celebrate you!

Regional winners and state finalists, it's time to celebrate your achievements and how far you have come in the Queensland Training Awards.

Be proud and share your success with the people around you.

Use promotional materials emailed to you on social media and online, tagging #QTA2021 and #SkillsPower — and celebrate your achievements and the importance of training.

Promotional packs out now include:

- 2021 state finalist
- 2021 regional winner
- 2021 regional finalist
- 2021 proud nominee.

If you can't locate your promotional pack, please contact your [local QTA coordinator](#).

*Pictured: This year's regional winner social media profile frame, road-tested by 2020 Tropical North Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander of the Year Liamon Mudd.*



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# Key dates

**From September/October 2021** – [Queensland winners announced](#)

**18 November 2021** – National winners announced, [Australian Training Awards](#) in Perth

# Connect

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