

Regional finalists named

Congratulations to our [224 regional finalists](#) for the 2023 Queensland Training Awards, and thanks to everyone who submitted or supported our nominees. This year has been one of our biggest, with more than 800 nominations completed.

Our QTA judging panels, which include past winners and other stakeholders, have been busy since the nomination window closed in March.

We have been overwhelmed by the quality of the nominations for this year's awards and it's inspirational to see how training is building up the confidence and abilities of individuals and organisations across a range of important skills and sectors.

Our judges interviewed an incredible shortlist of nominees in 11 categories across our seven regions. The chance to talk with exceptional people, organisations and projects has made this a rewarding experience for them as well. On behalf of nominees and the entire team behind the QTA – a big thank you to our fantastic judges.

The 2023 regional finalists will be looking forward to their [regional finals coming up in July](#) and the winners named at these events will progress to the state awards on 9 September.

Between July and September, we will also do another round of judging for our three state only categories, which will be named ahead of the state final.

Nominations for the Australian Training Awards' five direct entry categories have been extended until 11:59pm on Saturday 13 June. For more information about these awards and the eligibility visit the Australian Training Awards website, or use the links below:

- [Outstanding Achievement in the VET and Skills Sector Award](#)
- [Australian Apprenticeships Employer Award](#)
- [School Pathways to VET Award](#)
- [Excellence in Language, Literacy and Numeracy Practice Award](#)
- [Innovation in VET Award](#)

Past winners add QTA judging to their experiences

This year several past Queensland Training Award winners joined our judging QTA panels. Being a QTA judge is a great opportunity to see things from a different perspective, and showcase past winners to the nominees.

Australia's 2022 Apprentice of the Year Jennah Halley, Queensland's 2022 Bob Marshman Trainee of the Year Tony Karamatic and VET Teacher or Trainer of the Year Ronelle Sheehan, and 2021 Bob Marshman Trainee of the Year Mitchell Hogan were among this year's judges.

“Being a judge for QTA was an honour and a huge responsibility. I can’t believe how many talented people we have out there and the different skillsets and different life experiences that have led them to where they are now,” Jennah said.

Jennah’s own training journey is continuing, as she is taking on the Certificate III in Electrotechnology and a Certificate III in Business to keep adding to her capabilities and career goals.



Tony said reviewing around 50 nominations for Bob Marshman of Trainee of the Year had been inspiring for him and the emotional stories of people overcoming challenges and pursuing important goals had him feeling he wants to be a judge every year.

“I’m looking forward to the next stage and mentoring the winners when they go onto the state finals and sharing my experience with them and helping Queenslanders win more awards at the national level too,” he said.

This is Mitchell’s second year as a QTA judge and still feels honoured to meet more like-minded people who are benefitting from training and building brighter futures for themselves.

“I treasured winning the Bob Marshman Trainee of the Year. The Queensland Training Awards has made me realise there are so many other individuals out there and given me a chance to be an ambassador for a small rural town like Dalby,” he said.

“There’s not many options for country and rural kids to see someone as successful as I am and give hope to them as well.”





Ronelle enjoyed being on the other side of the interview process this time around and learning what innovative teachers and trainers are doing to support learners in different fields and levels.

“I have been really impressed by the calibre of nominations we have, and it has been extremely hard to look at which nomination is stronger. There are so many amazing people out there doing brilliant things in the teaching and learning field.”

Train and Retain campaign starts with respect

Queensland has run the first in a series of campaigns to support and drive change for apprentices and trainees, particularly women and girls aspiring for great careers in male-dominated occupations like traditional trades.

This is the start for a three-year Train and Retain strategy, and our QTA alumni play a valuable role in promoting skills and skilled careers, breaking down barriers and busting myths.

Learn more about the campaign and find promotional materials you can share at www.qld.gov.au/LetsProtectRespect.



Women in Manufacturing Strategy released, regional events rolling out

The [Women in Manufacturing Strategy](#) has been released and sets out four priorities to support the sector to keep innovating and growing:

1. Supporting diversity, equity and inclusion in the manufacturing industry.
2. Building on our existing capabilities and skills to further women's leadership and development.
3. Boosting women's participation in VET, building the STEM pipeline and promoting advanced manufacturing capabilities throughout secondary and tertiary studies.
4. Celebrating and showcasing the women in Queensland's manufacturing industry.

A series of regional events have been organised across the state that highlight the contributions women are already making in this important industry and the career opportunities and pathways for women and girls.

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