

## Top training ten off to nationals!

Congratulations to the [10 Queensland finalists](#) named in the Australian Training Awards (ATA).

The Queensland team includes the eight state winners from the Queensland Training Awards:

- Apprentice of the Year Award – Jennah Halley
- Trainee of the Year Award – Tony Karamatic
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Award – Atahnee Simpson
- Australian School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year Award – Matthew Siver
- Vocational Student of the Year Award – Courtney Evans
- VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year Award – Ronelle Sheehan
- Industry Collaboration Award – Queensland Future Skills Partnership (BHP Mitsubishi Alliance with CQUniversity Australia and TAFE Queensland)
- Small Training Provider of the Year Award – Harness Energy.

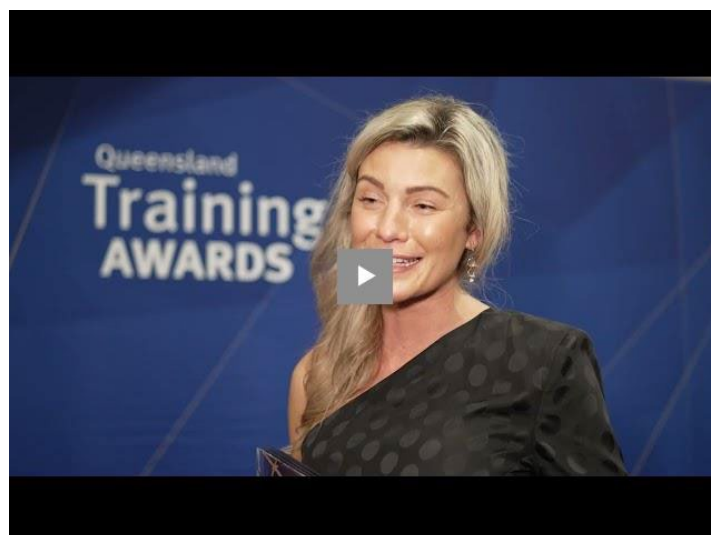
Joining them are two Queensland businesses that have been recognised in ATA direct entry categories — G8 Education for the Australian Apprenticeships—Employer Award and Sunshine Coast Technical Trade Training Centre for the School Pathways to VET Award.

Good luck to our finalists! Winners will be announced in Adelaide on Friday 18 November 2022 and [tickets are available](#) up to Monday 7 November or when sold out.

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## Watch state highlights

Relive some of the energy and excitement from the 2022 Queensland Training Awards State Finals.



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## Survey reminder

Thanks to everyone who has completed our attendee survey for the Queensland Training Awards state final so far. Please take the time to fill this in and submit it.

Your feedback will help guide our planning for next year's event. [Let us know](#) if you need the survey link sent to you again.

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## 2023 QTA – the search begins

Keep an eye out for any people, projects and organisations you think could be strong candidates for the 2023 Queensland Training Awards. When you spot one, let them know their great work can lead to regional, state and even national recognition and then let us know.

You can either encourage them to complete our [online expression of interest form](#) or sign up yourself, in case you want to submit a nomination on their behalf. This way one of our regional Queensland Training Awards coordinators can get in touch with you and let you know when the nomination window opens.

Each year our seven regional finals aim to recognise three finalists in each category, plus three finalists for our state-only categories, which means we need hundreds of training success stories from across the state.

With training pathways covering so many industries, future QTA winners can be anywhere. Help us find out about anyone you think deserves some recognition, including yourself!

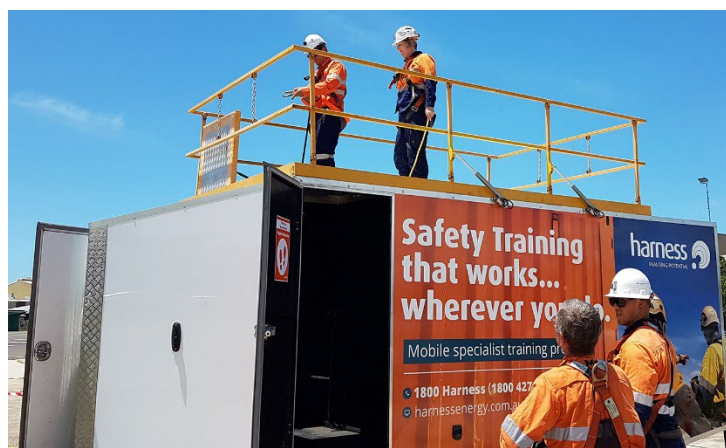
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## Testimonials

Hear a little more from three of our winners who are heading to Adelaide later this month.

### Harness Energy

**2022 Small Training Provider of the Year – Queensland winner and Australian finalist**



Harness Energy specialises in safety and technical training and labour hire across oil and gas, transport, warehousing, construction, rail and freight, and mining industries. Delivering accredited courses from facilities in Brisbane, Toowoomba and Papua New Guinea and through a Mobile Training Unit.

CEO Rory Duff said the whole organisation is passionate about what they do and being recognised through the Queensland Training Awards provided a boost for the team.

“Making it to the top three at a national level provides further validity to the quality of programs and unique approach Harness takes to its training and career-supporting work,” he said.

“At an organisation level, the experience has also been beneficial to hear about what the other nominees were doing that can be so inspiring. It is really important to recognise the value, hard work and support that the sponsors and government contribute - without which, these events might not happen at all.”

Harness Energy also employed and trained E'Kayla Harris who was named the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year for the Darling Downs South West Queensland region and was a Queensland finalist in 2022.

“Speaking to E'Kayla on the awards night indicated to me that she had truly valued the process and found it a personal growth experience — something she can leverage for her family and friends within her community as a realistic example of where hard work and resilience can get you. Her spirit of participation and openness were infectious.”



## **Courtney Evans**

### **2022 Vocational Student of the Year – Queensland winner and Australian finalist**

The treatment and care Courtney received while recovering from a snowboarding accident inspired her to return to the classroom to earn a qualification and start pursuing a new career.

“Returning to TAFE in 2020 as a mature age student, I brought much more life experience compared to my 2009 journey, but I also was in a completely different head space,” she said.

“I was much more focused and determined to thrive when I chose to study nursing, as the diploma was in an area I had zero previous experience in, unlike my previous Diploma of Hospitality and Events Management, where I was utilising training to upskill and improve on my previous knowledge and experience.

“This made the study experience more challenging, not only due to me being completely out of my skill set and comfort zone, but also the challenge of online learning and delivery of my diploma though Zoom.

“Prior to being nominated for the 2022 Queensland Training Awards, I had no idea they even existed! Yet since being involved in all the various workshops and presentations, I think that it is extremely important for others to see just what can be achieved through taking a VET pathway.

“My journey through training and my VET pathway literally changed my life and I couldn’t be more thankful to every single person who has helped me along my journey.”

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## Ronelle Sheehan

### **VET Teacher or Trainer of the Year – Queensland winner and Australian finalist**

Ronelle has had a rewarding and varied training career, which was sparked by tutoring Indigenous children in accelerated literacy and numeracy in Darwin. Her training experience evolved into delivering community and aged care courses in Nhulunbuy in the Northern Territory and eventually led to Ronelle joining TAFE Queensland in 2016.

It took a couple of weeks to sink in after hearing her name called as the state winner but now she’s looking forward to representing the state and meeting the other trainers and educators.

“The Queensland Training Awards has provided invaluable validation of my dedication to my position as trainer and of all the work I do above and beyond for my students,” she said.

“We teachers do keep very busy and there’s not always time to stop and smell the roses, so to be recognised this way does make you take a step back.

“One of my most valued experiences would be my training at residential facilities delivering the accredited Infection Control skillset during the pandemic. Playing a part assisting our frontline workers to be safe, be ready and be competent to respond accordingly to the pandemic. It was the right training, at right time, at the right place.

“It was incredibly personally rewarding to feel like you were making a real contribution to Australia’s response and there was a very welcoming response from the facilities.”

[Read more testimonials](#) from past winners on the QTA website.



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## Thank you 2022 sponsors



Apprentice  
Employment Network  
QLD & NT



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## Closing soon

Apprentices, trainees and vocational education and training graduates aged 18 to 30 years old can apply for the [Queensland Overseas Foundation's Scholarship Program](#). The application window will close on 30 November 2022, and offers up to \$7500 for travel expenses and a settling in allowance.

Up to five scholarships are awarded each year and have helped chefs, mechanical trades, designers and other skilled workers gain international experience and bring back new insights and cultural understanding to support their career progression and industry development.

## Connect

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PO Box 15483, City East QLD 4002