

Queensland shines at Australian Training Awards

Congratulations to Australia's Apprentice of the Year Jennah Halley and all the [Queensland finalists at the Australian Training Awards](#) as the program wrapped up for 2022.



Matthew Siver was named runner up for the Australian School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year Award, silver medals were awarded to Harness Energy in the Small Training Provider of the Year as well as the Queensland Future Skills Partnerships in the Industry Collaboration Award, and bronze medals went to G8 Education and Sunshine Coast Technical Trade Training Centre in their respective categories.

This was a big finish for the 2022 awards. From the nomination window at the start of the year, the journey through the judging period, regional finals in July and the state final in September, it has been a year-long showcase of the many strengths of Queensland's training system.

The different stories of the many students, apprentices and trainees, who found a career they wanted to pursue and excelled with their vocational studies has again highlighted the range of options, roles and industries training pathways support.

Our teachers, trainers and training providers have shown their commitment to deliver effective lessons and qualifications that prepare students for the tasks they will complete and to meet employer expectations.

Businesses, big and small, public or private, have all shown they recognise the importance of supporting training pathways for new workers and expanding the skill sets of their current employees, preparing them to take on more responsibilities and furthering their careers.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey in 2022. Sharing your **#SkillsPower** stories helps people and organisations see how training has developed their capabilities and set them up to pursue new goals for the future.

Get ready for 2023!

The holiday season is a great time to review where you have come from and map out plans for the start of the New Year. If vocational education and training has helped you, or someone you know achieve some great results, or has you on track to reach a significant milestone next year, you should consider submitting a nomination for the 2023 Queensland Training Awards.

The nomination window has opened and if you start now and follow the [five easy steps to enter the Queensland Training Awards video](#), there is plenty of time to pull together everything you need to make a strong case for the judges to consider.



Queensland Training AWARDS

5 easy steps to enter

There are some quick but important steps you can take before this year ends to get the ball rolling:

- Read the [quick eligibility summaries for the 14 award categories](#), to work out which one to nominate for.
- [Check which QTA region](#) you are in, because 11 award categories are first considered at the regional level.
- Now you can register and fill in the first page of the nomination with your basic details and save your progress.

If you take these steps now, you can download the drafting template for the selected award category and use that to prepare your responses over the summer. Then in the New Year you can jump back in when you are ready, complete your nomination and our regional coordinators can contact you if you need some assistance.

Remember you may need to reach out to other people to complete a nomination and gather required supporting documents. So reaching out to them early, even just to check when they will be available next year, is a good idea.

Sticking to New Year's resolutions can be tricky, but if you break it up into manageable steps and start early, you might surprise yourself and find that 2023 leads to some big things for you.

Testimonials

Hear a little more from Jennah, Tony, Matt and Atahnee.

Jennah Halley

2022 Apprentice of the Year – Queensland and Australian winner

Taking on an apprenticeship while caring for her four children meant Jennah Halley was making three different drop-offs before heading to work, but completing her second trade qualification in air conditioning and refrigeration has led her on a journey to inspire other women.

"This process has been inspiring and humbling. To be nominated by my TAFE teacher has helped me realise I belong here and that I am not only accepted but I'm capable," Jennah said.

"My entire work team looks up to me, celebrates me and respects me. The training process as a mature aged woman was daunting but I can truly say, its changed my life in every single way."



Tony Karamatic

2022 Trainee of the Year – Queensland winner and Australian finalist

After starting with Albem Construction as a labourer 18 years ago, Tony Karamatic has built up his skills and experience, making a rewarding career in construction with one employer. Completing his Diploma of Project Management has set Tony up for the next step of his career as well as support others pursuing their own goals for the future.

"You're always learning. Every single day you are learning. I will continue to study and learn for the rest of my career. I will mentor the next generation coming through, so I too can give back to an industry that has given me so much," Tony said.

"Being named the Bob Marshman Trainee of the Year was the most amazing feeling that I couldn't explain. The joy and excitement along with the sense of achievement filled my body with joy."



Atahnee Simpson

2022 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year – Queensland winner and Australian finalist



Searching for a new career path that offered a better work/life balance lead Atahnee Simpson to take up a traineeship with the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning studying a Certificate III in Business, which has now seen her story reach the regional, state and national level.

"Launching my second career while being a single mum has had its challenges, but it is the reason why I am doing what I am doing. My son is my motivation to keep on pushing even when times get tough," she said.

"It feels incredible to be able to provide for my son while also learning on the job, a job that I enjoy doing so much. To be able to represent my mob and my work makes me feel so proud and accomplished."

Matthew Siver

2022 School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year – Queensland winner and Australian runner-up

Matthew Siver is confident his plans for study and work are a good fit for him, thanks to his experience working with Metro North Health as a school-based trainee. Discovering a workplace that sparked his passion has Matthew looking forward to the next steps on his career path and he's happy to encourage other school students to look for opportunities to learn about the variety of careers that are out there.

"I have direction in my life and I am not nervous for what the future holds, as I have set myself up brilliantly for a medical career," Matthew said.

"School-based traineeships offer a head start to people who know what they want with their life and don't want to sit behind school desks five days a week. Education is very important but sometimes school doesn't quite offer what students are after.

"That is why I am so grateful to my school, St Columban's College, and training officers for allowing me and so many other students to participate in traineeships in pretty much any career you could ever want!"



Thank you 2022 sponsors



Focus on quality

A new [online hub](#) is putting the focus on quality as part of the Queensland Government's commitment to achieving quality outcomes from its investment in vocational education and training (VET).

When it comes to quality, everyone in the VET ecosystem has a role to play, including you – our QTA family, celebrating and supporting excellence in training for 61 years.

The hub provides links to key information, resources and news, highlighting the important work we all do through the lens of quality.

Please share the hub among your networks — and help us keep the focus on quality.

Go to: www.desbt.qld.gov.au/training/quality

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