



January 2025

The 2025 Queensland Training Awards: your time to shine!



Nominations are now open for the 2025 Queensland Training Awards

The Awards, now in their 63rd year, celebrate excellence and innovation in vocational education and training across Queensland. Open to apprentices, trainees, vocational students, teachers and trainers, as well as training providers, employers, community organisations and industry groups, the Awards represent the pinnacle of success within the VET sector.

Any individual, employer or organisation who is excelling in their field, fostering industry transformation or demonstrating outstanding performance can seize this opportunity for statewide recognition by nominating now. Make 2025 the time to shine!

Learn more at [Queensland Training Awards](#) and discover [how to enter](#).



Free Apprenticeships for Under 25s

Priority apprenticeships and traineeships will remain free for under 25 year olds with the extension of the Queensland Government's [Free Apprenticeships for Under 25s](#) program to 30 June 2025.

Free Apprenticeships for Under 25s offers fully subsidised training for more than 130 priority apprenticeships and traineeships in areas such as electrical, plumbing and engineering as well as early childhood, aged and disability care.

[Free Apprenticeships for Under 25s](#) will cover the cost of training for eligible Queensland apprentices or trainees who commenced one of the high priority apprenticeships or traineeships before 30 June 2025.

View the full list of priority qualifications on the [User Choice list](#).

[LEARN MORE](#)



Have your say on Australia's jobs and skills priorities

[Jobs and Skills Australia](#) is inviting submissions on the most critical jobs and skills priorities for the nation. The insights will contribute to the [2025-26 Work Plan](#), focused on improving workforce participation, productivity, wages, and equity across Australia.

The Work Plan will be guided by five strategic outcomes:

1. fostering inclusive participation
2. understanding today's workforce
3. shaping Australia's future workforce
4. optimising pathways and system architecture
5. activating an informed dialogue.

Join the conversation and help shape a stronger, more equitable workforce.

[Submissions](#) **are** open until 5pm, 28 February 2025.

[JOIN THE CONVERSATION](#)

STEM educators: access free energy career resources!

The Queensland Government, in collaboration with [Cool.org](#), has developed a set of free educational resources tailored for Year 7–12 students focusing on renewable energy topics such as wind, solar, pumped hydro, and battery technology.

The program aligns with the Australian curriculum and integrates scientific principles, mathematical problem-solving, design thinking, and sustainability, offering a hands-on approach to understanding the future of energy.

Featuring the [Future Energy Jobs Guide](#), the suite of resources help educators to equip students with valuable knowledge on careers in renewable energy, and the global shift toward sustainable solutions.

The resources provide educators the tools to empower students, connecting STEM learning with real-world applications, inspiring the next generation of energy innovators.

[LEARN MORE](#)

\$2.8m for Indigenous-led training and local job support

Through the Indigenous Workforce and Skills Development Grant program, \$2.8 million is funding 15 Indigenous-led projects across Queensland, creating opportunities for up to 429 First Nations job seekers.



The projects offer a range of supports to First Nations people to develop workplace confidence, including:

- cultural onboarding
- foundation skills
- coaching and mentoring
- mental health support
- learner driver assistance
- career planning

Projects will be delivered in Townsville, Palm Island, Rockhampton, Gladstone Woorabinda, and across South East Queensland, and will include workshops to build the cultural competency of local non-Indigenous employers. Training opportunities include:

- Certificate III in Conservation and Ecosystem Management
- Certificate III in Community Services
- Certificate I in Construction
- Certificate II in Supply Chain Operations

- Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways
- Certificate II in Security Operations

The projects focus on First Nations people seeking local training and employment opportunities including ex-offenders, young people and recent school leavers, women entering or re-entering the workforce and underemployed workers.

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\$50m to skill Queenslanders for the workforce

Up to 6,133 unemployed and underemployed Queenslanders will access life-changing training as part of the latest round of the [Skilling Queenslanders for Work](#) initiative.

Over 200 projects will see even more Queenslanders obtain a qualification through projects delivered by community-based organisations like yourtown, Multicultural Australia, Carers Queensland Limited, and Skill360 Australia Limited.

These organisations will provide real, practical assistance to job seekers, which can include mentoring, employability skills, and transport assistance.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work assists disadvantaged job seekers to gain skills, qualifications and experience to secure a job or remain in the workforce.

Job seekers undertake accredited training across a range of priority industries – including construction, primary industries, community services and hospitality – while receiving wrap-



Anticipating future skills

Discover brand-new employment projections for Queensland

New employment projections are now available for Queensland up to 2027–28. [Anticipating Future Skills \(AFS\)](#) predicts future employment by region, occupation and industry.

Employment growth is projected across urban, regional and remote Queensland between 2023–24 and 2027–28.

More than 70% of additional jobs are projected to be in four industries:

- health care and social assistance
- public administration and safety
- professional, scientific and technical services
- education and training.

The top five regions for employment growth are projected to be:

- Sunshine Coast
- Logan-Beaudesert
- Moreton Bay
- Gold Coast.

around support to help them complete training and find a job.

It is expected that more than 100,000 Queenslanders will have been supported by the initiative by mid-2025

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Queensland's workforce will also be more skilled than ever, with over 2.2 million working Queenslanders (72%) holding a Certificate III or above as their highest qualification.

[DISCOVER MORE INSIGHTS](#)

Pearson Automotive: building a stronger workforce

For 28 years, Jase Pearson has successfully operated Pearson Automotive, a thriving automotive repair business in Brisbane. Despite steady growth, Jase identified a critical challenge limiting the business' potential: staff retention.

Recognising the need for change, Jase engaged Kelvin Millar, [Industry Workforce Advisor](#) for the automotive sector, to develop a tailored workforce solution. Together, they devised a comprehensive workforce plan that led Jase to secure the [HR Support Grant](#) for small business.



Partnering with HR consultant Jordan Lowry from Blackstone Business Group, Jase implemented a strategy focused on team cohesion and staff appreciation. The plan aimed to foster a culture of collaboration and recognition within the workplace.

“Since introducing the staff appreciation system, we’ve seen remarkable improvements in both attendance and morale,” Jase said. “Working with Kelvin and Jordan has truly re-energised our team and reinvigorated my leadership.”

This initiative highlights the importance of strategic workforce planning and the positive impact of fostering a supportive, cohesive workplace culture. Through collaboration and access to resources like the HR Support Grant, businesses like Pearson Automotive are overcoming workforce challenges and building stronger, more resilient teams.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Promoting VET pathways - 2025 School Leaver's Guide

The Queensland [2025 School Leaver's Guide](#) to jobs and training provides helpful information and resources for school leavers, senior students and those who provide them advice.

From exploring careers to finding low-cost training pathways and employment support, the guide has it all. Designed for online use, the guide can be used individually or as an interactive in-class tool.

[GET THE GUIDE](#)



From robots to rockets: a new resource for manufacturing careers

[Manufacturing Skills Queensland](#) has launched 'Manufacturing Matters' – a comprehensive digital resource designed to highlight the diversity of manufacturing careers in Queensland.

The new website showcases almost 200 career opportunities in manufacturing and offers information on entry pathways to help jobseekers secure their dream job.

Manufacturing Skills Queensland's Chief Executive Officer Rebecca Andrews said 'Manufacturing Matters' aims to bridge the gap between education and industry awareness.

"We've created a one-stop-shop for anyone interested in exploring a career in manufacturing, whether they're students considering their future options, job seekers looking to transition into the industry, or educators preparing the next generation of manufacturing professionals," she said.

[EXPLORE MANUFACTURING MATTERS](#)



Queensland STEM innovator wins 2025 Young Australian of the Year

Dr. Katrina Wruck has been named the [2025 Young Australian of the Year](#), earning recognition for her innovations in green chemistry, driven by her commitment to supporting the health of remote Indigenous communities.

A proud Mabuigilaig and Goemulgal woman, Katrina is the driving force behind Nguki Kula Green Labs, a profit-for-purpose enterprise that combines cutting-edge science with a mission to reduce health issues in communities.

Katrina has developed a ground-breaking method to convert mining by-products into zeolite LTA, a substance capable of removing hardness-causing contaminants from water, with plans for commercialisation underway. Her postdoctoral research delves into breaking down harmful "forever chemicals" into safe, benign compounds.

As a role model, Katrina's successes further amplify the vital role that traditional knowledge and cutting-edge science can play together in solving complex local and global challenges.

[READ MORE](#)

Celebrating excellence in Information, Communication and Technology education

In 2024, students from more than 50 schools participating in the Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Gateway to Industry Schools Program demonstrated outstanding achievement in digital and technology-focused subjects.



To celebrate student excellence, the Information, Communication and Technology Gateway to Industry Schools Program awards and Australian Computer Society prize packs recognised top-performing students at participating schools.

Among the winners was Kashvi (*pictured, left*) from St Mary's College in Maryborough, who was recognised for her exceptional performance in Information, Communication and Technology activities.

These awards not only honour hard work but also highlight the value of IT and Digital Technologies subjects, inspiring other students to explore ICT when selecting their subjects.

Supported by the [Department of Trade, Employment and Training](#), and delivered by the Australian Computer Society, the program prepares Year 7 to Year 12 students for ICT-linked careers by connecting classroom learning to industry opportunities.

Congratulations to winners from schools such as St Mary's, Bray Park State High, St Rita's, Kirwan State High, Forest Lake State High and many others!

[**LEARN MORE**](#)

Awards

Do you know a great Queenslander deserving of recognition?

The [Queensland Greats Awards](#) recognise and honour extraordinary individuals and institutions who have made a meaningful contribution to, or whose achievements have significantly impacted, the history and development of Queensland.



The awards have recognised the lifetime achievements of extraordinary Queenslanders including those at the top of the national and international stage in the fields of sport, arts, science, philanthropy and business for more than 20 years.

The awards are open to individuals (including posthumous) and institutions.

Pictured: Queensland Greats 2024 Institution recipient LifeFlight.

Show your Queensland pride and nominate an outstanding Queensland or Queensland institution today for the 2025 Queensland Greats Awards.

Nominations close 5pm, Monday 17 February 2025.

Events and programs



Brisbane Truck Show Careers Days

Thursday to Saturday, 15-18 May 2025

9.00 am - 5.00 pm

**Opposite the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (The Depot: in the park)
Cnr Merivale and Glenelg St, South Brisbane**

In collaboration with TAFE Queensland, over thirty different career paths in Australia's heavy vehicle industry will be showcased.

Students will enjoy the truck simulator, interactive exhibits and hands-on demonstrations. Exhibitors are on hand to talk to students about the diverse career opportunities their companies have to offer.



WorldSkills 2025 and Brisbane Careers and Employment Expo

Thursday to Saturday, 12-14 June 2025

9.00 am - 5.00 pm

**Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre
Cnr Merivale and Glenelg St, South Brisbane**

Witness Australia's top apprentices, trainees, and students competing in 60+ skills competitions at the WorldSkills 2025 National Competition and Skills Show. Co-located with the Brisbane Careers and Employment Expo, connect with over 120 training and skills organisations and employers. Attendees can try

[Learn more](#)

out a variety of skills at the Try'a Skill booths.
Entry is free.

[Learn more](#)

Stay connected and informed!

Share with your network and [subscribe](#) for regular updates.



The Queensland Government respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands and seas from across Queensland.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the state.

This email was sent by the Department of Trade, Employment and Training
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