

2026 South Australian Training Awards **Nominations Guide**

www.trainingawards.sa.gov.au

SA Training
Awards **2026**



South
Australian
Skills
COMMISSION

30 YEARS
CELEBRATING
SKILLS
EXCELLENCE



Acknowledgement of Country

The South Australian Skills Commission acknowledges and respects Aboriginal people as the state's first people and nations and recognises Aboriginal people as the traditional owners and occupants of South Australian land and waters.

Contents

A Message from the South Australian Skills Commissioner	1
About the South Australian Training Awards	2
Why Nominate?	3
2026 Award Categories and Prize Money	4
Key Dates and Contacts	5
How to Nominate	5
Conditions of Entry	6
Attachments to Support Your Nomination	8
Selection and Judging Process	9
Tips for Preparing Your Nomination	11
Eligibility and Selection Criteria – Individual Categories	14
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year	15
Apprentice of the Year	17
School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year	19
Trainee of the Year	21
Vocational Student of the Year	23
VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year	25
Lifetime Achievement Award	27
Eligibility and Selection Criteria – Organisational Categories	30
Industry Collaboration	31
Small Employer of the Year	33
Large Employer of the Year	35
Small Training Provider of the Year	38
Large Training Provider of the Year	41
Adult Community Education Provider of the Year	44
VET Innovation for Schools	46

A message from the South Australian Skills Commissioner

Cameron Baker



I am pleased to announce that nominations for the 2026 South Australian Training Awards are now open!

Each year, these prestigious Awards shine a spotlight on the remarkable people, organisations, and employers who drive excellence in South Australia's vocational education and training (VET) sector.

This year marks a significant milestone as we celebrate the **30th year of the South Australian Training Awards**. For three decades, these Awards have celebrated the outstanding achievements of our VET community and recognised the individuals and organisations who make a profound difference to skills development, workforce capability, and the future prosperity of our state.

This follows South Australia's impressive achievements at the 2025 Australian Training Awards, including our organisational winners:

- ▶ Bowhill Engineering, awarded Gold – Small Employer of the Year, and
- ▶ BHP Olympic Dam, awarded Silver – Large Employer of the Year.

We also proudly acknowledge Adrienne Nieuwenhuis, who received the Outstanding Achievement in the VET and Skills Sector Award in recognising her outstanding contribution to vocational education and training and her commitment to learner success.

Their achievements are a testament to the strength of South Australia's skills ecosystem and the commitment of employers and individuals who invest in talent, capability, and innovation.

A special mention also goes to Mikayla Dawson-Sincock, who was named runner-up in the School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year category.

The South Australian Training Awards provide an important opportunity to recognise the individuals and organisations who are transforming lives through skills and training. Whether you are an apprentice, trainee, vocational student, employer, training provider, or educator shaping future generations, these Awards offer a chance to reflect on your achievements and be recognised for your efforts.

This guide has been designed to help you prepare a strong nomination. I encourage you to take the time to read it carefully, select the most appropriate award category, seek support if needed, and submit your best possible nomination.

If you know someone whose efforts deserve acknowledgement — an inspiring teacher or trainer, an employer who champions training, a motivated student, or an organisation creating positive outcomes for learners — please encourage and support them to nominate.

Your experience and achievements deserve to be recognised. I encourage you to take this moment to reflect on your journey and submit a nomination.

I wish all nominees the very best of luck and look forward to celebrating the outstanding accomplishments of our VET community at the Gala Presentation in September.

Commissioner Cameron Baker
Chair of the South Australian Skills Commission

Celebrating the incredible quality, diversity and ingenuity in vocational education and training across South Australia.

About the South Australian Training Awards

Presented by the South Australian Skills Commission, the South Australian Training Awards shine as the State's most prestigious awards program for recognising excellence in VET.

This year we present the 30th year of the Awards, building on its long and distinguished history. The Awards aim to showcase the outstanding efforts and talents of individuals and organisations across the State who inspire others and contribute to their communities, while building a fulfilling pathway in the VET and skills sector.

Through these Awards we proudly recognise the remarkable quality, diversity and ingenuity in the VET and skills sector across our State.

Every year the Awards offer the opportunity for individuals and organisations to reflect on their achievements through the nomination and judging process. Some nominees will be shortlisted for interviews, and some will progress as finalists to be recognised at the Gala Presentation.

At the conclusion, a winner is crowned in each Award category who will join a growing history of outstanding ambassadors for VET in South Australia.

Why Nominate?

The South Australian Training Awards shine as the State's most prestigious Awards program for VET. In nominating you join an outstanding group of individuals and organisations making an impact through the VET sector.

As a winner, you will be recognised as the best in the State in your Award category. Individual Award categories also receive cash prizes (except for the Lifetime Achievement Award).

All finalists are presented with a Certificate, and the winners are presented with a trophy at the Gala Presentation.

As an individual or organisation, the Awards are a great opportunity to:

- ▶ reflect on your achievements and growth through VET
- ▶ take advantage of opportunities to network with industry leaders and colleagues who share a passion and drive for VET
- ▶ build your profile and reputation and gain industry recognition.

Award winners may also become an ambassador for the South Australian Training Awards and help to promote the Awards, speak with media, and participate in further networking opportunities, committees, and forums.

South Australian Training Award winners in categories that have a pathway to the Australian Training Awards will have the opportunity to compete against the best from each state and territory for the national title and experience the accolades and attention that this generates.

It all starts with your nomination and you telling your story!

2026 Award Categories and Prize Money

Individual categories

- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year**
- **Apprentice of the Year**
- **School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year**
- **Trainee of the Year**
- **Vocational Student of the Year**
- **VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year**

Category Award winners will receive **\$3,000 in prize money** and a **2026 South Australian Training Awards trophy and framed Certificate**.

● **Lifetime Achievement Award**

This Award is presented in recognition of an individual's outstanding leadership and contribution to the South Australian VET and skills sector for more than 15 years.

The winner of this Award will receive a **2026 South Australian Training Awards trophy and framed Certificate**.

Organisational categories

- **Industry Collaboration**
- **Small Employer of the Year**
- **Large Employer of the Year**
- **Small Training Provider of the Year**
- **Large Training Provider of the Year**
- **Adult Community Education Provider of the Year**
- **VET Innovation for Schools**

Organisational Award category winners will receive a **2026 South Australian Training Awards trophy and framed Certificate**.

Voters' Choice Award

This Award is presented at the Gala Presentation to the most popular individual finalist decided by a public online vote.

The winner of this Award will receive **\$1,000 in prize money** and a **2026 South Australian Training Awards trophy**.

2026 Key Dates and Contacts

Key Dates

1 May	Nominations close
June to July	Judging process
August	Awards finalists announced
11 September	South Australian Training Awards Gala Presentation
October to November	Professional Development Program for winners in preparation for the Australian Training Awards
Late November	Australian Training Awards

Key contacts

- W www.trainingawards.sa.gov.au
- E sata@sa.gov.au
- T 0474 504 718

How to Nominate

Nominate for the South Australian Training Awards by following these simple steps:

- 1 Check that you will be able to comply with the **conditions of entry**.
- 2 Check that you meet the **eligibility criteria** for the award that is most appropriate to you or your organisation.
- 3 Review the **selection criteria** for your chosen award and make sure you can address all parts of the nomination form.
- 4 **Register** on the nominations portal: satraining.awardsplatform.com
Choose the award you are nominating for and confirm you meet the eligibility criteria.
- 5 **Build your application** and gather the **supporting evidence** you need for your chosen category. Make sure you save your application as you progress.
- 6 **Submit your completed application by 5:00 pm, ACST on Friday 1 May 2026.**



Conditions of Entry

By entering the 2026 South Australian Training Awards, you agree to the following Conditions of Entry:

1. All nominations must be submitted via the South Australian Training Awards online portal: <https://satraining.awardsplatform.com>
2. The closing date for all nominations is **5:00 pm ACST on Friday 1 May 2026**. The South Australian Skills Commission reserves the right to extend the deadline for nominations.
3. All nominees for individual Award categories must be an Australian citizen or a permanent resident of Australia and reside in South Australia.
4. A nominee must not be nominated for a similar Award category in another state or territory in the same year.
5. Where an entrant is not self-nominated, they must agree to be nominated.
6. Prospective nominees must be able to meet all the eligibility criteria for the Award category being nominated.
7. South Australian Government employees are eligible to nominate for any award except those directly involved in administering the Awards or judging the Award category for which they would be applying.

Award categories

8. Each Award category has specific criteria. All nominations must meet the criteria and be factually correct for the application to be considered a valid entry. Non-compliance with entry requirements will be sufficient reason for the South Australian Skills Commission to reject the nomination. Any material provided that exceeds the desired number of attachments will not be considered in judging.

9. It is the responsibility of all nominees and nominators to ensure that they have selected the correct Award category.
10. Nominees for individual Award categories must only nominate for one award in the 2026 South Australian Training Awards.
11. The South Australian Skills Commission reserves the right to re-assign nominations lodged to an incorrect award category at its discretion.

Personal and non-confidential information

12. By applying, all nominees for the South Australian Training Awards agree that the provision of their personal information may be used by external organisations for the purpose of determining their eligibility.
13. By applying, all nominees for the South Australian Training Awards agree that all or part of any non-confidential material or details from their nominations, photographs and recordings can and may be used online, in any broadcast and print media, and in a range of publicity and promotional materials related to VET and skills, South Australian Training Awards or the Australian Training Awards.

Compliance and integrity checks

14. All nominees must comply with State and Commonwealth Government standards regarding training, workplace health and safety, and industrial relations matters. The South Australian Skills Commission may refuse to proceed with a nomination at any time where an organisation or individual is under investigation by a State or Federal Government or has any unresolved issues with any other South Australian Government department.
15. All nominees should be aware that integrity checks will be conducted as part of the judging process.



Providers

16. All registered training organisations (RTOs) referenced in nominations must be registered with the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) and approved to deliver and/or assess the listed course or qualification in South Australia (i.e. the course or qualification must be on the RTO's scope of registration).
17. RTOs may be subject to quality assurance checks by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA).
18. Community education providers will be subject to quality assurance checks by the Department of State Development.

Organisations

19. Organisations must be registered in Australia and have an Australian Business Number (ABN).

Nominees and finalists

20. Shortlisted nominees must meet with the judging panel and may be visited at the location of their training as part of the judging process.
21. Shortlisted nominees must attend all interviews as required, either in person or virtually and undergo all preparations that the South Australian Skills Commission or its nominee deems necessary for the Awards.
22. All nominees must abide by the decisions of the South Australian Skills Commission or its nominee, whose decision shall be final on all matters relating to the Award – no correspondence about or justification for any decision will be provided.
23. All finalists must attend the South Australian Training Awards Gala Presentation.
24. If under the age of 18 years, nominees must be accompanied by a responsible parent or guardian, where applicable, at the South Australian Training Awards judging interviews, Gala Presentation, and Australian Training Awards.

Award winners

25. Selected South Australian Training Awards winners will be required to attend professional development activities in preparation for the Australian Training Awards.
26. Winners of the 2026 South Australian Training Awards will be nominated for the 2026 Australian Training Awards in aligned categories to compete in that Award category at the national level. All nominations for the Australian Training Awards will be considered by the Australian Training Awards judging panels. Australian Training Awards finalists will be required to attend the 2026 Australian Training Awards 'Ambassador Week' and presentation ceremony.
27. If any Award winner receives a prize and is subsequently discovered to be ineligible for the award, the South Australian Skills Commission reserves the right to recover the prize from the entrant and award an alternate winner.

Privacy note

Only authorised State and Australian Training Awards government agency officers and appointed panel members have access to nominees' information. The authorised State government agency may share information with other relevant bodies, sponsors, and media. Sensitive personal information will not be disclosed to any other party without the nominee's consent, unless authorised or required by law. All panel members sign confidentiality and conflict of interest agreements.

Attachments to Support Your Nomination

Attachments can be included with nominations for both individual and organisational award categories, provided they are referenced in the nomination.

These may include copies of VET certificates or qualifications, certificates of completion, certificates and awards, letters of reference or photographs of you in your workplace or at your training organisation.

All attachments need to be referenced in the nomination and included in your application via the nomination portal. As such, no multimedia items or discs will be accepted. Any material exceeding the maximum number of attachments specified will not be considered.

The total number of attachments permitted is outlined within the Eligibility and Selection Criteria for each award category.



“After a tough start to my apprenticeship, being able to share my story and celebrate how far I’ve come has shown me — and hopefully others — that passion and determination can take you anywhere. If you love what you do and refuse to give up, you can achieve whatever you set your mind to. Don’t let anyone tell you otherwise.

The connections I’ve built through the Awards have already supported me in my new role in the trade industry, and I’m incredibly grateful for the opportunities that have come from this experience.

To anyone thinking about nominating for 2026 — do it. Put in the work, back yourself, and write that application like you mean it. It’s absolutely worth it.”

BETHANY JONES

2025 South Australian Training Awards
Apprentice of the Year

Selection and Judging Process

Judging of the South Australian Training Awards is conducted by panels of individuals who have extensive experience in training and industry sectors; each panel is chaired by a member of the South Australian Skills Commission.

To determine the finalists and winners, all nominations are evaluated as follows:

Individual Award Categories

Stage 1

- ▶ Nominations are evaluated against the eligibility and selection criteria to assess and determine whether the nomination is eligible to progress.
- ▶ Nominations are then assessed by the Award judging panel to determine which nominations go through to the interview stage.
- ▶ All nominees will be advised if they have been shortlisted for interview.

Stage 2

- ▶ Shortlisted nominees are interviewed (in person or virtually) by the Award judging panel.
- ▶ The Award judging panel will select finalists, including one winner for the Award category.
- ▶ Finalists are announced ahead of the South Australia Training Awards Gala Presentation.

Lifetime Achievement Award

This Award has a specific selection and judging process. Nominations for this Award are assessed by the South Australian Skills Commission against the eligibility and selection criteria. A shortlist of candidates is referred to the responsible Minister for selection of the Award winner. Nominees are notified if they have been selected as the recipient of the Award and will be presented at the South Australian Training Award Gala Presentation.

Organisational Award Categories

Stage 1

- ▶ Nominations are evaluated against the eligibility criteria and selection criteria to assess and determine if the nomination is eligible to progress.
- ▶ Nominations are then assessed by the Award judging panel to determine which nominations go through to the interview stage.
- ▶ All nominees are advised if they have been shortlisted for an interview.

Stage 2

- ▶ Arrangements are made with shortlisted nominees for onsite interview by the Award judging panel.
- ▶ The Award judging panel validates the written nomination by gathering further information to assist in selecting the Award winner.
- ▶ The Award judging panel will select finalists, including one winner for the Award category.
- ▶ Finalists are announced ahead of the South Australia Training Awards Gala Presentation.

All Award finalists are presented at the South Australia Training Awards Gala Presentation where the winner of each Award category is announced.

The decision of the judging panel is final. No written correspondence will be entered into.



"Winning the SA Training Awards has been incredibly validating. It recognised the hard work I've put into my training and reassured me that choosing the VET pathway was the right decision. Representing South Australia on the national stage and being acknowledged alongside so many inspiring people was a moment I'll always cherish."

Since receiving the award, I've felt a huge boost in confidence. New opportunities have opened up, and I feel more certain about the direction I want to take in my career. It's been a real turning point in how I see myself and what I'm capable of achieving."

"For anyone applying for the 2026 SA Training Awards: back yourself, believe your story is worth telling, and don't underestimate the impact your VET experience can have — on your future and on others watching your journey."

MIKAYLA DAWSON-SINCOCK

2025 South Australian Training Awards School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year

2025 Australian Training Awards School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year Runner-up



Tips for Preparing Your Nomination

The key to success is making your nomination memorable. This is your opportunity to share your story and what makes you unique.

The judging panels are experienced at identifying individuals and organisations that stand out from the crowd – but they don't know you, so a quality application that is clear and concise and addresses all selection criteria is essential.

It is important to note that the written nomination you submit for the 2026 South Australian Training Awards will be the same nomination that is used for judging the 2026 Australian Training Awards if you progress to become a finalist in the national awards program.

Start today

Starting your application now gives you as much time as possible to familiarise yourself with the criteria for your Award category, and then to research, write, reflect, seek feedback and support, and edit your application.

The South Australian Training Awards team is here to help guide you through the nomination process and preparing your nomination.

Check the rules

Carefully review the eligibility and selection criteria for your Award category, as well as the conditions of entry. Ensure you meet the criteria before nominating.

Tell your story

All questions in the selection criteria have been crafted to encourage you to tell the story of your vocational education and training success. What have you done? How have you achieved it? A strong nomination uses practical examples and provides evidence of your achievements.

Consider some of the points you might want to raise and draft dot points outlining what you want to cover under each criterion.

Ask for help and feedback

As you build your nomination, show your draft to your employer, a mentor or trainer at your training organisation, a family member, or a school VET coordinator – and ask for honest feedback.

The South Australian Training Awards team is also available to guide you in developing your application.

Pay attention to the word and attachment limits

Check the Award category guidelines to find out how many words you are permitted to use for each criterion and the number of supporting documents you can attach.

You may want to prepare your responses to the selection criteria and save it in a Word document (or equivalent) before copying into the appropriate sections of your online application.

Keep your writing clear and simple

Avoid using slang, jargon, or too many acronyms. Use plain English and keep your language simple, clear, and concise, and always write in the first person. For example, say 'I' or 'we' contributed to a project.

Avoid repetition

Check your application to make sure you have answered all the questions. Ensure you provide new information in each response.

Select strong supporting documents

A letter, certificate, qualification, written reference from your employer and/or teacher, trainer, or assessor, testimonial, photograph etc. can add value to your application as evidence of your success.

Make sure you reference attachments in your nomination and make sure you do not exceed the number of attachments permitted for your award category.

Final check

Ask someone to proof-read your application – in particular, to check spelling and grammar. Once that has been completed, make sure you review the final draft before submitting it.

Do a final check of your overall nomination and make sure that you:

- ▶ meet all the eligibility criteria and will be able to comply with the conditions of entry
- ▶ have addressed all selection criteria related to your category
- ▶ have included all information needed to submit your application, including your attachments and certification
- ▶ have referenced all attachments in your nomination.

Australian Training Awards

Please note the written nomination you submit for the 2026 South Australian Training Awards will be the same nomination that is used for judging in the 2026 Australian Training Awards if you progress to become a finalist in the national awards program.

Remember: you will be competing with the very best nominees from other states and territories – take the time to prepare a quality nomination.

Need help with your nomination? The South Australian Training Awards team is here to support you every step of the way. Whether you need guidance on the nomination process or assistance in preparing your application, we're here to help!

Email us at sata@sa.gov.au or call 0474 504 718.



“Our win has been transformative for us as an Adult Community Education (ACE) Provider. It shows the power of culturally responsive, community-centred education and reinforces that when learning is built around people’s lived experiences, it truly changes lives. This recognition has elevated the conversation about equitable access to education and highlighted that ACE has a vital place at the forefront of the VET landscape.

The most meaningful part of this journey has been celebrating alongside fellow educators who share this commitment to empowering communities. Since the award, new partnerships and collaborations have opened up, allowing us to expand our reach while staying grounded in the relationships that make our programs effective.

The awards aren’t just about celebrating what you’ve achieved; they’re about inspiring what’s possible when we centre learners, embrace innovation, and how we walk alongside client stories. The application process itself will help you articulate your value in powerful new ways.”

COMMUNITY ACCESS AND SERVICES SA

2025 South Australian Training Awards
Adult Community Education Provider of the Year



Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Individual Categories

www.trainingawards.sa.gov.au

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Award recognises the achievement of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander student who is undertaking an apprenticeship, traineeship or a course of study leading to a nationally recognised qualification.

The Award recognises the student has been outstanding in all aspects of their training.

The winner of this award will represent South Australia at the Australian Training Awards.

Eligibility criteria

You must:

- ▶ identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent
- ▶ have completed or be due to complete your training in a training course that leads to a nationally recognised outcome or qualification
- ▶ meet the criteria of the School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year Award, the Vocational Student of the Year Award, the Apprentice of the Year Award or the Trainee of the Year Award.

Preparing your nomination

Section A: Overview

Provide a short description of the qualification you are enrolled in, your registered training organisation, employer, and host employer (if applicable), as well as your reason for choosing the industry and training path.

(Limit: 300 words)

*This information will **not** be considered or used for judging purposes, but it may be used as your summary throughout the Awards process.*

Section B: Selection Criteria

Criterion 1: Career and study achievements

Consider things such as:

- ▶ why you chose your course
- ▶ how it has changed or impacted you
- ▶ what you have gained from it
- ▶ any challenges that you have overcome during your training.

(Limit: 400 words)

Criterion 2: Team and communication skills

Consider any skills you have developed through your training, such as:

- ▶ what you tell your family, friends, employer/s, workmates, and others about your training
- ▶ what you like about working in a team setting
- ▶ what traits you think are important to positively influence others.

(Limit: 400 words)

Criterion 3: Ability to be an ambassador (representative) for training in Australia

Tell us about and provide examples of:

- ▶ when you have taken a leadership role inside or outside of training and/or work
- ▶ other activities you have been involved in where you have been a representative
- ▶ how you would describe the quality of your training.

(Limit: 400 words)

Criterion 4: Community engagement

You may wish to include information about:

- ▶ how you connect with your community and/or extended family
- ▶ how the training has impacted your community
- ▶ the qualities you have or activities you have been involved in that you feel would be useful in your role as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year
- ▶ your achievements in areas other than study and work.

(Limit: 400 words)

Attachments

Up to **five** single A4 page attachments to be provided at a 100 per cent ratio, with one document per page.

These may include copies of training and education certificates, VET certificates and qualifications, certificates of completion, certificates and awards, letters of reference or photographs of you in your workplace or at your training organisation.

Apprentice of the Year

The Apprentice of the Year Award is presented to an individual who is undertaking an apprenticeship and has been outstanding in all aspects of their training.

The winner of this award will represent South Australia at the Australian Training Awards.

Eligibility criteria

You must:

- ▶ have completed or be due to complete your apprenticeship (i.e. contract end date) in the period from 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2026, in a training course that leads to a nationally recognised outcome or qualification relevant to the Apprentice of the Year Award
- ▶ have a Contract of Training registered with the South Australian Skills Commission.

Preparing your nomination

Section A: Overview

Provide a short description of the qualification you are enrolled in, your registered training organisation, employer, and host employer (if applicable), as well as your reason for choosing the industry and training path.

(Limit: 300 words)

*This information will **not** be considered or used for judging purposes, but it may be used as your summary throughout the Awards process.*

Section B: Selection Criteria

Criterion 1: Career and study achievements

Consider things such as:

- ▶ why you chose your course
- ▶ how it has changed or impacted you
- ▶ what you have gained from it
- ▶ what you have been able to bring to your workplace.

(Limit: 400 words)

Criterion 2: Team and communication skills

Consider any skills you have developed through your training, such as:

- ▶ what you tell family, friends, employer/s, workmates and others about your training
- ▶ what you like about working in a team setting
- ▶ what traits you think are important to positively influence others.

(Limit: 400 words)

Criterion 3: Ability to be an ambassador (representative) for training in Australia

Tell us about and provide examples of:

- ▶ when you have taken a leadership role inside or outside of training and/or work
- ▶ other activities you have been involved in where you have been a representative
- ▶ how you would describe the quality of your training.

(Limit: 400 words)

Criterion 4: Other qualities and pursuits

You may wish to include information about:

- ▶ how you have addressed challenges that have impacted your training
- ▶ when you have been required to use initiative – in your training, your personal life, or your workplace
- ▶ other qualities you have or activities you have undertaken that you feel would be useful in your role as Apprentice of the Year
- ▶ other community work or industry involvement you have had.

(Limit: 400 words)

Attachments

Up to **five** single A4 page attachments to be provided at a 100 per cent ratio, with one document per page.

These may include copies of training and education certificates, VET certificates and qualifications, certificates of completion, certificates and awards, letters of reference or photographs of you in your workplace or at your training organisation.

School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year

The School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year Award is presented to a student who is undertaking a Certificate II qualification or above as a part-time school-based apprentice or trainee. The Award recognises the student's commitment to their formal studies at school and in the workplace.

The winner of this award will represent South Australia at the Australian Training Awards.

Eligibility criteria

You must:

- ▶ be undertaking/completing a Certificate II qualification or above through an Australian school-based apprenticeship or traineeship
- ▶ be enrolled in school at the time of nomination
- ▶ have a Contract of Training registered with the South Australian Skills Commission.

Preparing your nomination

Section A: Overview

Provide a short description of the qualification you are enrolled in, your registered training organisation and employer, as well as your reason for choosing the industry and training path.

(Limit: 300 words)

*This information will **not** be considered or used for judging purposes, but it may be used as your summary throughout the Awards process.*

Section B: Selection Criteria

Criterion 1: Career and study achievements

Consider things such as:

- ▶ why you chose your course
- ▶ how it has changed or impacted you
- ▶ what you have gained from it
- ▶ how your job has assisted your skills development.

(Limit: 400 words)

Criterion 2: Team and communication skills

Consider any skills you have developed through your training, such as:

- ▶ what you tell family, friends, employer/s, workmates, teachers, classmates and others about your training
- ▶ what you like about working in a team setting
- ▶ what traits you think are important to positively influence others.

(Limit: 400 words)

Criterion 3: Ability to be an ambassador (representative) for training in Australia

Tell us about and provide examples of:

- ▶ where you have taken a leadership role inside or outside of training and/or work
- ▶ other activities you have been involved in where you have been a representative
- ▶ how you would describe the quality of your training.

(Limit: 400 words)

Criterion 4: Other qualities and pursuits

You may wish to include information about:

- ▶ how you had to address any challenges that have impacted your training
- ▶ when you have been required to use initiative – in your training, your personal life, or your school and/or workplace
- ▶ other qualities or activities you feel would be useful in your role as School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year
- ▶ any community work or industry involvement you have had.

(Limit: 400 words)

Attachments

Up to **five** single A4 page attachments to be provided at a 100 per cent ratio, with one document per page.

These may include copies of training and education certificates, VET certificates and qualifications, certificates of completion, certificates and awards, letters of reference or photographs of you in your workplace or at your training organisation.

Trainee of the Year

The Trainee of the Year Award is presented to an individual who is undertaking a traineeship and has been outstanding in all aspects of their training.

The winner of this award will represent South Australia at the Australian Training Awards.

Eligibility criteria

You must:

- ▶ have completed or be due to complete your traineeship (i.e. contract end date) in the period from 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2026, in a training course that leads to a nationally recognised outcome or qualification relevant to the Trainee of the Year Award
- ▶ have a Contract of Training registered with the South Australian Skills Commission.

Preparing your nomination

Section A: Overview

Provide a short description of the qualification you are enrolled in, your registered training organisation, employer, and host employer (if applicable), as well as your reason for choosing the industry and training path.

(Limit: 300 words)

*This information will **not** be considered or used for judging purposes, but it may be used as your summary throughout the Awards process.*

Section B: Selection Criteria

Criterion 1: Career and study achievements

Consider things such as:

- ▶ why you chose your course
- ▶ how it has changed or impacted you
- ▶ what you have gained from it
- ▶ what you have been able to bring to your workplace.

(Limit: 400 words)

Criterion 2: Team and communication skills

Consider any skills you have developed through your training, such as:

- ▶ what you tell your family, friends, employer/s, workmates and others about your training
- ▶ what you like about working in a team setting
- ▶ what traits you think are important to positively influence others.

(Limit: 400 words)

Criterion 3: Ability to be an ambassador (representative) for training in Australia

Tell us about and provide examples of:

- ▶ when you have taken a leadership role inside or outside of training and/or work
- ▶ other activities you have been involved in where you have been a representative
- ▶ how you would describe the quality of your training.

(Limit: 400 words)

Criterion 4: Other qualities and pursuits

You may wish to include information about:

- ▶ how you have addressed challenges that have impacted your training
- ▶ when you have been required to use initiative – in your training, your personal life, or your workplace
- ▶ other qualities you have or activities you have undertaken that you feel would be useful in your role as Trainee of the Year
- ▶ other community work or industry involvement you have had.

(Limit: 400 words)

Attachments

Up to **five** single A4 page attachments to be provided at a 100 per cent ratio, with one document per page.

These may include copies of training and education certificates, VET certificates and qualifications, certificates of completion, certificates and awards, letters of reference or photographs of you in your workplace or at your training organisation.



“Being recognised as the Trainee of the Year showed me that I can do whatever I set my mind to and that my contribution is seen, valued and respected. Women have just as much place in this industry as everybody else. I can now proudly say I’m representing other young people and women in trades just through living by example and taking every opportunity.

One of the best parts of the awards is the opportunity to be surrounded by people who understand your journey and share your passion. This journey is something I’ll always treasure.

Since winning, I’ve stepped into greater responsibility at work and grown into a leadership role within my team. So if you’re thinking about nominating for 2026 — do it. You don’t need to feel ‘ready’. Take a chance on yourself because telling your story through the power of VET could change someone’s life.”

LILI O’CONNOR

2025 South Australian Training Awards Trainee of the Year

Vocational Student of the Year

The Vocational Student of the Year award recognises an outstanding student's achievement in a course of study leading to a nationally recognised qualification.

The winner of this award will represent South Australia at the Australian Training Awards.

Eligibility criteria

You must:

- ▶ be a full-time or part-time student, but not an Australian apprentice or trainee
- ▶ have completed or be due to complete your training in the period 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2026 in a training course that leads to a nationally recognised outcome or qualification relevant to the Vocational Student of the Year.

Preparing your nomination

Section A: Overview

Provide a short description of the qualification you are enrolled in, your registered training organisation, and employer (if applicable), as well as your reason for choosing the industry and training path.

(Limit: 300 words)

*This information will **not** be considered or used for judging purposes, but it may be used as your summary throughout the Awards process.*

Section B: Selection Criteria

Criterion 1: Career and study achievements

Consider things such as:

- ▶ why you chose your course
- ▶ how it has changed or impacted you
- ▶ what you have gained from it
- ▶ what you have been able to bring to your workplace.

(Limit: 400 words)

Criterion 2: Team and communication skills

Consider any skills you have developed through your training, such as:

- ▶ what you tell family, friends, employer/s, workmates and others about your training
- ▶ what you like about working in a team setting
- ▶ what traits you think are important to positively influence others.

(Limit: 400 words)

Criterion 3: Ability to be an ambassador (representative) for training in Australia

Tell us about and provide examples of:

- ▶ where you have taken a leadership role inside or outside of training and/or work
- ▶ other activities you have been involved in where you have been a representative
- ▶ how you would describe the quality of your training.

(Limit: 400 words)

Criterion 4: Other qualities and pursuits

You may wish to include information about:

- ▶ how you had to address any challenges that have impacted your training
- ▶ when you have been required to use initiative – in your training, your personal life, or your workplace
- ▶ other qualities you have or activities you have undertaken that you feel would be useful in your role as Vocational Student of the Year
- ▶ other community work or industry involvement you have had.

(Limit: 400 words)

Attachments

Up to **five** single A4 page attachments to be provided at a 100 per cent ratio, with one document per page.

These may include copies of training and education certificates, VET certificates and qualifications, certificates of completion, certificates and awards, letters of reference or photographs of you in your workplace or at your training organisation.

VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year

The VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year Award recognises innovation and excellence by a trainer or teacher providing nationally recognised training to learners at a registered training organisation (RTO), or in partnership with an RTO.

The winner of this award will represent South Australia at the Australian Training Awards.

Eligibility criteria

To nominate for the award the applicant must:

- ▶ be a qualified teacher/trainer (as determined by the [Standards for Registered Training Organisations \(RTOs\) 2015](#)) or its successor) who is employed by an RTO or regularly contracted by an RTO
- ▶ have delivered/will have delivered training during the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2026 that has led or will lead to nationally recognised qualifications or Statements of Attainment under the Australian Qualifications Framework
- ▶ be endorsed by the employing RTO
- ▶ provide evidence of their teacher/trainer qualification with the nomination.

Preparing your nomination

Section A: Overview

Provide a brief overview of your areas of expertise, qualifications, courses/classes taught, education and work background, the environment in which you operate, and any specific challenges you have encountered and may have had to overcome during your teaching/training career.

(Limit: 300 words)

*This information will **not** be considered or used for judging purposes but it may be used as your summary throughout the Awards process.*

Section B: Selection Criteria

Criterion 1: Excellence and initiatives

Consider:

- ▶ the involvement you have had in the development of new learning methodologies, training delivery and/or assessment
- ▶ an initiative you have implemented that has led to innovation and/or improvement in your delivery and/or assessment practice
- ▶ how you have shared the outcomes of your innovation and/or improvement with your colleagues
- ▶ the impact of these initiatives and/or improvements on your learners, colleagues, and industry partners.

(Limit: 600 words)

Criterion 2: Learner needs and focus

Consider:

- ▶ how you support the diverse needs of your learners and ensure they continue to be engaged in their learning journey
- ▶ what evidence there is of the effectiveness of the design and delivery methodologies of your training program and/or assessment strategies
- ▶ providing examples of where you have initiated a new idea, activity etc. in response to feedback
- ▶ providing examples of the learner, industry, or community feedback mechanisms you use.

(Limit: 600 words)

Criterion 3: Commitment to VET teaching and learning

Consider:

- ▶ how you maintain and grow your VET and industry skills and knowledge
- ▶ how you support others to develop their VET and industry skills and knowledge
- ▶ providing examples of your engagement with other VET professionals.

(Limit: 600 words)

Criterion 4: Links with industry and community

Consider:

- ▶ how you implement active links with industry and the community
- ▶ the major issues confronting the industry sector/s your program engages with
- ▶ how you believe VET helps address these issues
- ▶ the level of engagement you have with industry and professional bodies
- ▶ how you promote VET in industry and the community.

(Limit: 600 words)

Attachments

Up to **five** single A4 page attachments to be provided at a 100 per cent ratio, with one document per page.

These may include copies of training and education certificates, VET certificates and qualifications, certificates of completion, certificates and awards, letters of reference or photographs of you in your workplace or at your training organisation.

Lifetime Achievement Award

The Lifetime Achievement Award is presented in recognition of an individual's outstanding leadership and contribution to the South Australian VET and skills sector for more than 15 years.

This leadership and contribution may have been linked to an innovation, new knowledge, or ways to improve professional practice deemed to be above and beyond the everyday, with a long-lasting impact within the sector.

This award has specific nomination procedures and eligibility:

- ▶ Nominations must be made on behalf of an individual; individuals cannot self-nominate for this award category.
- ▶ Nominees do not need to be currently employed to be eligible for this award.
- ▶ An individual nominated for the award becomes an enduring nominee and, if not successful initially, will be eligible for consideration for this award in subsequent years.
- ▶ A post-humous nomination can be made for this award.
- ▶ The South Australian Skills Commission and the responsible Minister may nominate individuals for this award.

Nominations for this Award will be assessed by the South Australian Skills Commission against the eligibility and selection criteria. A shortlist of candidates will be referred to the responsible Minister for selection of the award winner. Nominees will be notified if they have been selected as the recipient of the award and will be presented at the South Australian Training Awards Gala Presentation.

Eligibility criteria

Nominations follow similar eligibility criteria used for the Australian Training Awards.

The nominated individual must:

- ▶ have an established history of distinguished service to the VET and skills sector (15 years or more, of sustained service)
- ▶ have made a positive and lasting contribution to the VET and skills sector
- ▶ be recognised by other industry, training, education or employer groups; and have the respect of professional peers
- ▶ be acknowledged as having reached the pinnacle of their profession or industry
- ▶ have demonstrated, over an extended period, a contribution that has included research, industry achievement, professional leadership and/or service to the VET and skills community
- ▶ have demonstrated high-level personal integrity
- ▶ have exhibited leadership and provided inspiration to others in the VET and skills sector
- ▶ have positively influenced the VET and skills sector in South Australia
- ▶ have made significant and fundamental contributions and be able to demonstrate a lifetime commitment to the VET and skills sector.

Preparing the nomination

Section A: Overview

Provide a short overview of the person, their achievements, and the reason for the nomination.

(Limit: 400 words)

*This information will **not** be considered or used for judging purposes, but it may be used as your summary throughout the Awards process.*

Section B: Selection Criteria

Criterion 1: History of service

Consider the nominee's history of service to the VET and skills sector – in particular, positions of leadership the nominee has held, such as on boards or as chair of committees. Any other known history in the sector, such as participation on committees and workgroups, and any examples of the nominee representing the VET and skills sector officially with other organisations or at state, national or international meetings. Additionally, consideration is given to an individual's broader contributions to the VET and skills sector.

(Limit: 800 words)

Criterion 2: Significant contribution and positive influence on the VET and skills sector

Consider the nominee's significant contribution to the advancement of VET practice and skills development, including teaching or training positions or programs, awards or recognition from professional or industry groups and institutions, and/or innovative approaches to challenges. How will the nominee's story inspire others to higher standards in their work or to raise the communities' perception of the VET and skills sector?

(Limit: 800 words)

Criterion 3: Leadership

Consider the nominee's leadership in the field of VET and skills, including positively influencing policy or practice on a state, national or international level. This may include government committees and workgroups, advocacy, senior positions, other training, mentoring or committee participation. How have they 'made a difference' in some way?

(Limit: 800 words)

Attachments

Up to **three** single A4 pages of relevant evidence may be provided **for each criterion** as an attachment. These attachments may be used to highlight a point made in the application and should be clearly referenced within the criterion response.



“Winning the 2025 VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year has been truly transformative. It reaffirmed my belief that irrespective of your background or learning journey, you can make a meaningful impact in the VET sector. The experience opened doors I never imagined: connecting with passionate finalists and alumni at the Australian Training Awards, gaining insights that expanded my vision, and stepping into new leadership roles that allow me to drive innovation and support student success.

This journey has shown me the power of storytelling, reflection and courage. By putting my own story on paper, I discovered how far I’ve come and where I want to go next. To anyone considering nominating—take the chance! Whether you win or not, the process itself will grow you, connect you and reveal opportunities that can change your career and your confidence in extraordinary ways.”

ANTHONY JULIANTO

2025 South Australian Training Awards
VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Organisational Categories

www.trainingawards.sa.gov.au

Industry Collaboration

The Industry Collaboration Award recognises collaboration driving exemplary skills development between at least one employer and/or industry body and at least one organisation delivering nationally recognised vocational education and training.

To be eligible for shortlisting for the Australian Training Awards the lead organisation's head office must be located in South Australia.

Eligibility criteria

The collaboration must:

- ▶ have at least one party who is an industry organisation (e.g. employer, enterprise, group of enterprises, industry association, industry advisory body, trade union or professional association)
- ▶ have at least one party who is delivering nationally recognised training or directly contributing to the outcomes of nationally recognised training that leads to formal qualifications or Statements of Attainment under the Australian Qualifications Framework.

Please note: organisations must demonstrate a genuine and shared agreement (either formal or informal) to cooperate and work together for mutual benefit. Collaborations typically will not include transactional or service delivery arrangements or partnerships where financial and cost arrangements are a defining characteristic.

Nominations will not be accepted from organisations operating under a contractual 'partnership' agreement.

Preparing your nomination

Section A: Overview

Provide an overview of the collaboration, including:

- ▶ name of the collaboration
- ▶ the lead organisation and each of the parties to the collaboration
- ▶ the purpose and objectives of the collaboration
- ▶ the origin of the collaboration (how the parties came together)
- ▶ details of the environment in which the collaboration operates
- ▶ how the collaboration functions in practice, including lines of communication between the parties.

(Limit: 500 words)

*This information will **not** be considered or used for judging purposes, but it may be used as your summary throughout the Awards process.*

Section B: Selection Criteria

Criterion 1: Outstanding practice of the collaboration

Describe the extent to which the collaboration goes above and beyond standard practice in VET and skills development.

Consider:

- ▶ the basis of the collaboration partners' agreement that has proven to be successful
- ▶ specific training and skills needs are addressed by the collaboration
- ▶ the exemplary or innovative aspects that are a feature of the industry collaboration.

(Limit: 800 words)

Criterion 2: Achievements of the collaboration for training

Consider:

- ▶ examples of excellence in training and assessment delivered via the industry collaboration
- ▶ training outcomes achieved, including qualifications and/or skill sets awarded
- ▶ improvements in the quality of learning, teaching/training and assessment that have been implemented
- ▶ what, if any, new or improved career pathways and opportunities have been created.

(Limit: 800 words)

Criterion 3: Training impacts of the collaboration

Consider:

- ▶ how the collaboration has benefited the participants, the community, the collaborating organisations and the broader training system
- ▶ improvements in the processes/procedures of all collaborating organisations have been implemented
- ▶ contribution/s to social equity, especially those increasing the participation of people from groups under-represented in the industry or workplaces.

(Limit: 800 words)

Criterion 4: Sustainability and future of the collaboration

Consider:

- ▶ the aspects, if any, of the collaboration that utilise government funding, and how the collaboration could be continued if government funding ceased
- ▶ how the outcomes of the collaboration could be replicated or modelled for other industries
- ▶ the quality improvement/performance evaluations of the collaboration that are in place and planned.

(Limit: 800 words)

Attachments

Up to **ten** single A4 page attachments to be provided at a 100 per cent ratio, with one document per page.

All attachments need to be referenced in the nomination.

Small Employer of the Year

The Small Employer of the Year Award recognises a small enterprise that has achieved excellence in providing nationally recognised training to its employees.

Nationally recognised training refers to training based on a national training package or accredited course that results in a person receiving a formal qualification or Statement of Attainment issued by an RTO. This includes Australian apprenticeships and traineeships.

To be eligible for shortlisting for the Australian Training Awards the organisation's head office must be located in South Australia.

Eligibility criteria

Your organisation must:

- ▶ employ 99 or fewer full-time equivalent employees
- ▶ deliver to employees, nationally recognised vocational education and training that leads to formal qualifications or Statements of Attainment issued by a registered training organisation (RTO) under the Australian Qualifications Framework
- ▶ demonstrate employees are working in South Australia.

The South Australian Training Awards accepts applications from:

- ▶ individual employers
- ▶ a partnership between a single Host Employer and a single Group Training Organisation.

Host Employers or Group Training Organisations who nominate for the award are required to have their partner agree to the nomination.

Nominations will not be accepted from organisations whose core business is VET (these organisations may consider nominating for either the Large or Small Training Provider of the Year award categories).

Preparing your nomination

Section A: Business Summary

Provide a brief description of your business, including the products or services that you offer and any major milestones you have achieved.

(Limit: 500 words)

*This information will **not** be considered or used for judging purposes, but it may be used as your summary throughout the Awards process.*

Section B: Selection Criteria

Criterion 1: Extent and quality of training for employees

Consider:

- ▶ your involvement in designing training and/or assessment specifically for your business, either alone or in partnership with training organisations
- ▶ the qualifications or courses that your employees are undertaking
- ▶ the percentage of your employees who are actively engaged in training
- ▶ hours per month (average) that your employees spend in training
- ▶ how you integrate on-the-job and off-the-job training
- ▶ how you commit to equity in training for employees who are from groups that are under-represented in employment, education and training (such as people with disabilities, Indigenous people, people from non-English speaking backgrounds, people in older age groups, people living in remote areas).

(Limit: 800 words)

Criterion 2: Achievements of the business and its employees that can be attributed to training

Consider how:

- ▶ training has improved the productivity and wellbeing of your employees (briefly describe the personal VET achievements of a few of your staff)
- ▶ training has improved your relationships with clients
- ▶ training has improved the productivity and profitability of your business
- ▶ you measure the benefits of training
- ▶ training will improve your business in the future
- ▶ training is integrated into business planning.

(Limit: 800 words)

Criterion 3: Innovation and excellence in design and delivery of training

Consider:

- ▶ details of creativity, innovation and excellence in the design, development and delivery of training and assessment for your employees
- ▶ innovative methods that you use to create positive relationships or partnerships with others to enhance the effectiveness of your training
- ▶ innovative approaches that you use to encourage access to training for your employees (e.g. mentoring, e-learning, collaborative learning).

(Limit: 800 words)

Attachments

Up to **ten** single A4 page attachments to be provided at a 100 per cent ratio, with one document per page.

All attachments need to be referenced in the nomination.

Large Employer of the Year

The Large Employer of the Year Award recognises large businesses and enterprises that have achieved excellence in the provision of nationally recognised training to their employees.

To be eligible for shortlisting for the Australian Training Awards the organisation's head office must be located in South Australia.

Eligibility criteria

Your organisation must:

- ▶ employ 100 or more full-time equivalent employees
- ▶ deliver nationally recognised vocational education and training to your employees that leads to formal qualifications or Statements of Attainment issued by a registered training organisation under the Australian Qualifications Framework
- ▶ demonstrate employees are working in South Australia.

The South Australian Training Awards accepts applications from:

- ▶ individual employers
- ▶ a partnership between a single Host Employer and a single Group Training Organisation – noting that host Employers or Group Training Organisations who nominate for the award are required to have their partner agree to the nomination.

Nominations will not be accepted from organisations whose core business is VET. These organisations may consider nominating for the Small or Large Training Provider of the Year award categories.

Preparing your nomination

Section A: Business Summary

Provide a brief description of your business, including the products or services that you offer and any major milestones you have achieved.

(Limit: 500 words)

*This information will **not** be considered or used for judging purposes, but it may be used as your summary throughout the Awards process.*



Section B: Selection Criteria

Criterion 1: Extent and quality of training for employees

Consider:

- ▶ your involvement in designing training and/or assessment specifically for your business, either alone or in partnership with training organisations
- ▶ the qualifications or courses that your employees are undertaking
- ▶ the percentage of your employees who are actively engaged in training
- ▶ hours per month (average) that your employees spend in training
- ▶ how you integrate on-the-job and off-the-job training.

(Limit: 800 words)

Criterion 2: Achievements of the business and its employees that can be attributed to training

Consider how:

- ▶ training has improved the productivity and wellbeing of your employees (briefly describe the personal VET achievements of a few of your staff)
- ▶ training has improved your relationships with clients
- ▶ training has improved the productivity and profitability of your business
- ▶ you measure the benefits of training
- ▶ training will improve your business in the future.

(Limit: 800 words)

Criterion 3: Integration of training into business planning

Consider:

- ▶ the training aims of your business
- ▶ the 'training culture' you have established within your business
- ▶ how training fits into your workforce development and business planning
- ▶ how you have formalised an ongoing commitment to training
- ▶ how you find out about the training needs of your employees.

(Limit: 800 words)

Criterion 4: Innovation and excellence in design and delivery of training

Consider:

- ▶ details of creativity, innovation and excellence in the design, development and delivery of training and assessment for your employees
- ▶ innovative methods that you use to create positive relationships or partnerships with others to enhance the effectiveness of your training and assessment
- ▶ innovative approaches that you use to encourage access to training for your employees (e.g. mentoring, e-learning, collaborative learning).

(Limit: 800 words)



“This award has been an important acknowledgement of the dedication of our team, the thousands of apprentices who have trained with us, and the industry partners and members who continue to support our work. It reinforces the vital role the automotive sector plays within South Australia’s VET system and our contribution to developing a highly skilled workforce for the state.

The highlight of the experience was celebrating the achievement with our MTA Training and Employment staff and trainers, whose commitment to delivering leading automotive training is at the heart of everything we do.

This recognition has also created strong momentum for the MTA—supporting key initiatives such as our Future Driven event and culminating in the official opening of our Automotive Refinishing Centre of Excellence by the Premier.

These awards are a powerful demonstration of our state’s commitment to vocational education and training, and they provide a valuable opportunity to showcase the important and diverse skills being developed across South Australia.”

MTA TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT

2025 South Australian Training Awards
Large Training Provider of the Year

Criterion 5: Commitment to equity in training

Consider:

- ▶ the training you have made available to employees who are from groups under-represented in employment, education and training (such as people with disabilities, Indigenous people, people from non-English speaking backgrounds, people in older age groups, people living in remote areas)
- ▶ the number of these employees who have actively engaged in training
- ▶ the number of these employees who have actively trained for managerial or supervisory jobs
- ▶ the training programs that have been specifically designed for these employees.

(Limit: 800 words)

Attachments

Up to **ten** single A4 page attachments to be provided at a 100 per cent ratio, with one document per page.

All attachments need to be referenced in the nomination.

Small Training Provider of the Year

The Small Training Provider of the Year Award recognises small, registered training organisations (RTOs) that offer a range of training products and services, and that demonstrate excellence and high-level performance in all aspects of vocational education and training.

The winner of this award is nominated to enter a shortlisting process for the Australian Training Awards.

Eligibility criteria

Your organisation must:

- ▶ have fewer than 500 students enrolled at the time of nomination, as reported by RTOs in the most recent annual National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) data collection period
- ▶ be an RTO for which the delivery of VET is their core business
- ▶ be approved by ASQA to deliver and/or assess the majority of your training in South Australia.

Only one nomination will be accepted per RTO code.

Applicants to the Small Training Provider of the Year Award may be subject to quality assurance checks by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA). These checks will inform the selection process of applicants for this award category.

Preparing your nomination

Section A: Business Summary

Provide a brief description of your organisation, including the reasons why you are applying for this award.

(Limit: 500 words)

*This information will **not** be considered or used for judging purposes, but it may be used as your summary throughout the Awards process.*

Section B: Selection Criteria

Criterion 1: High quality and leading practice in vocational education and training

How do you provide high quality VET? For example, you may consider:

- ▶ how you demonstrate excellence and high-level performance in nationally recognised training arrangements
- ▶ how you provide creative and innovative solutions to emerging training needs
- ▶ the systems you have in place to manage, evaluate and enhance your VET products and services
- ▶ how you implement and keep up with best practice
- ▶ how your training influences best practice
- ▶ how you measure success (e.g. outcome and completion data, satisfaction surveys, independent validations and evaluations, industry recognition, business outcomes from training activity)
- ▶ how you undertake continuous improvement and apply quality controls within your organisation.

(Limit: 800 words)

Criterion 2: Meeting student needs

How do you support students and meet their VET needs? For example, you may consider:

- ▶ how you encourage access to your VET products and services
- ▶ what support services you provide to students during their training
- ▶ the systems you have in place to be able to reach different cohorts (e.g. online training)
- ▶ how you are inclusive of different students' needs
- ▶ how you provide students with the skills they need to be successful in the workplace
- ▶ how satisfied students are with their training
- ▶ the success you have achieved in meeting the needs of equity groups.

(Limit: 800 words)

Criterion 3: Meeting industry needs

How do you monitor industry and market needs? For example, you may consider:

- ▶ how you build new, innovative and effective partnerships with industry in the local or wider community
- ▶ how you collect data on and understand industry and/or business needs and expectations
- ▶ your capacity and flexibility to meet changing training needs and new training markets
- ▶ how your training reflects changing industry requirements and expectations.

(Limit: 800 words)

Criterion 4: High quality business management

How do you manage your business to ensure it is operating at a high quality? For example, you may consider:

- ▶ the strategies you have in place to identify local and/or regional issues (e.g. social, economic, industrial or environmental issues) and how you incorporate these into your service delivery
- ▶ the systems you have in place for planning and communicating your purpose, vision, goals, values and core business strategies (and for creating alignment across your whole organisation)
- ▶ how you develop the capability and capacity of your workforce
- ▶ the strategies you have in place to build a positive workplace culture
- ▶ how you support employee wellbeing and positive mental health
- ▶ how you incorporate inclusion and diversity into running your business
- ▶ how you identify and attract new clients and new markets, and how you address these without impacting the sustainability of your operations
- ▶ how you enrol, train and report on online learners
- ▶ how you ensure the sustainability of your operations, including your understanding of risk and risk management.

(Limit: 800 words)

Criterion 5: Innovation and excellence in design and delivery of training and assessment

How do you demonstrate innovation in your approach to the design and delivery of training and assessment? For example, you may consider:

- ▶ details of creativity, innovation and excellence in the design, development and delivery of training and assessment
- ▶ how you demonstrate creativity and innovation in the design and development of your processes and techniques (operational or educational)
- ▶ innovative methods that you use to create positive relationships or partnerships with others to enhance the effectiveness of your training and/or assessment
- ▶ innovative approaches that you use to encourage access to training (e.g. mentoring, e-learning, collaborative learning).

(Limit: 800 words)

Attachments

Up to **ten** single A4 page attachments to be provided at a 100 per cent ratio, with one document per page.

All attachments need to be referenced in the nomination.

In addition, nominees for this award category must submit:

In addition, nominees for this category must submit:

1. Official documentation listing the accredited courses and/or qualifications on their Scope of Registration.
2. Evidence of the breakdown of enrolled student numbers in each state and territory (as provided to NCVER in the most recent annual data collection period).

Note that these attachments are not counted towards the attachment limit.

Large Training Provider of the Year

The Large Training Provider of the Year Award recognises large, registered training organisations (RTOs) that offer a range of training products and services, and that demonstrate excellence and high-level performance in all aspects of vocational education and training.

The winner of this award is nominated to enter a shortlisting process for the Australian Training Awards.

Eligibility criteria

Your organisation must:

- ▶ have 500 or more students enrolled at the time of nomination, as reported by RTOs in the most recent annual National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) data collection period
- ▶ be an RTO for which the delivery and/or assessment of VET is their core business
- ▶ be approved by ASQA to deliver and/or assess the majority of your training in South Australia.

Only one nomination will be accepted per RTO code.

Applicants to the Large Training Provider of the Year Award may be subject to quality assurance checks by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA). These checks will inform the selection process of applicants for this award category.

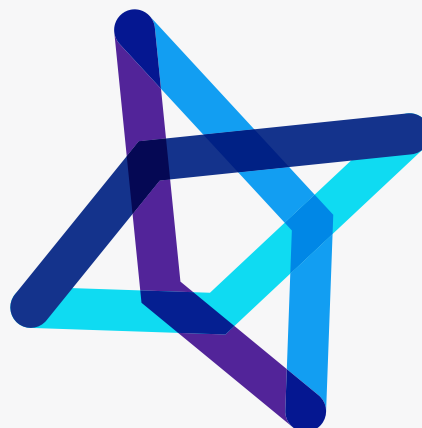
Preparing your nomination

Section A: Business Summary

Provide a brief description of your organisation, including the reasons why you are applying for this award.

(Limit: 500 words)

*This information will **not** be considered or used for judging purposes, but it may be used as your summary throughout the Awards process.*



Section B: Selection Criteria

Criterion 1: High quality and leading practice in vocational education and training

How do you provide high quality VET? For example, you may consider:

- ▶ how you demonstrate excellence and high-level performance in nationally recognised training arrangements
- ▶ how you provide creative and innovative solutions to emerging training needs
- ▶ the systems you have in place to manage, evaluate and enhance your VET products and services
- ▶ how you implement and keep up with best practice
- ▶ how your training influences best practice
- ▶ how you measure success (e.g. outcome and completion data, satisfaction surveys, independent validations and evaluations, industry recognition, business outcomes from training activity)
- ▶ how you undertake continuous improvement and apply quality controls within your organisation.

(Limit: 800 words)

Criterion 2: Meeting student needs

How do you support students and meet their VET needs? For example, you may consider:

- ▶ how you encourage access to your VET products and services
- ▶ what support services you provide to students during their training
- ▶ the systems you have in place to be able to reach different cohorts (e.g. online training)
- ▶ how you are inclusive of different students' needs
- ▶ how you provide students with the skills they need to be successful in the workplace
- ▶ how satisfied students are with their training
- ▶ the success you have achieved in meeting the needs of equity groups.

(Limit: 800 words)

Criterion 3: Meeting industry needs

How do you monitor industry and market needs? For example, you may consider:

- ▶ how you build new, innovative, and effective partnerships with industry in the local or wider community
- ▶ how you collect data on and understand industry and/or business needs and expectations
- ▶ your capacity and flexibility to meet changing training needs and new training markets
- ▶ how your training reflects changing industry requirements and expectations.

(Limit: 800 words)

Criterion 4: High quality business management

How do you manage your business to ensure it is operating at a high quality? For example, you may consider:

- ▶ the strategies you have in place to identify local and/or regional issues (e.g. social, economic, industrial or environmental issues) and how you incorporate these into your service delivery
- ▶ the systems you have in place for planning and communicating your purpose, vision, goals, values and core business strategies (and for creating alignment across your whole organisation)
- ▶ how you develop the capability and capacity of your workforce
- ▶ the strategies you have in place to build a positive workplace culture
- ▶ how you support employee wellbeing and positive mental health
- ▶ how you incorporate inclusion and diversity into running your business
- ▶ how you identify and attract new clients and new markets, and how you address these without impacting the sustainability of your operations
- ▶ how you enrol, train and report on online learners
- ▶ how you ensure the sustainability of your operations, including your understanding of risk and risk management.

(Limit: 800 words)

Criterion 5: Innovation and excellence in design and delivery of training and assessment

How you demonstrate innovation in your approach to the design and delivery of training and assessment? For example, you may consider:

- ▶ details of creativity, innovation and excellence in the design, development and delivery of training and assessment
- ▶ how you demonstrate creativity and innovation in the design and development of your processes and techniques (operational or educational)
- ▶ innovative methods that you use to create positive relationships or partnerships with others to enhance the effectiveness of your training and assessment
- ▶ innovative approaches that you use to encourage access to training (e.g. mentoring, e-learning, collaborative learning).

(Limit: 800 words)

Attachments

Up to **ten** single A4 page attachments to be provided at a 100 per cent ratio, with one document per page.

All attachments need to be referenced in the nomination.

In addition, nominees for this category must submit:

1. Official documentation listing the accredited courses and/or qualifications on their Scope of Registration.
2. Evidence of the breakdown of enrolled student numbers in each state and territory (as provided to NCVER in the most recent annual data collection period).

Note that these attachments are not counted towards the attachment limit.

Adult Community Education Provider of the Year

The Adult Community Education Provider of the Year Award acknowledges organisations that demonstrate outstanding commitment to supporting people in overcoming significant barriers or disadvantages to effectively participate in foundation skills courses.

Please note this is a South Australia-only award category. Winners of this category are not nominated for the Australian Training Awards.

Eligibility criteria

Your organisation must deliver foundation skills, either in an accredited or non-accredited format, based on the FSK Foundation Skills Training Package.

Training must have been delivered between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026.

Your organisation must have a current Skills SA Funded Activities Agreement (FAA).

Accredited and non-accredited foundation skills training must contribute to increased employability, and demonstrable skills development. Nominees must be able to demonstrate real and tangible participant outcomes.

To nominate for this Award your organisation must have demonstrated success in supporting students who have experienced significant barriers or disadvantages to effectively participate in foundation skills learning. Your participants may have experienced the following barriers to participation:

- ▶ low-level of education and skill development
- ▶ low literacy and numeracy skills
- ▶ disability
- ▶ be from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, including refugees
- ▶ long-term unemployment
- ▶ health issues
- ▶ returning to the workforce following caregiving, family responsibilities or a change of circumstance
- ▶ impacted by domestic violence.

Nominations for the Adult Community Education Provider of the Year Award will be subject to quality assurance checks. The checks will inform the selection process of nominations for this State-based Awards category.

Preparing your nomination

Section A: Overview

Provide a brief overview covering why you are nominating for this award. Include a description of the courses you have offered, developed, or customised to support participants overcome barriers to participating in foundation skills learning.

(Limit: 400 words)

*This information will **not** be considered or used for judging purposes, but it may be used as your summary throughout the Awards process.*

Section B: Selection Criteria

Criterion 1: Overcoming Barriers to Foundation Skills Success

What are the strategies your organisation has developed and used to ensure participants were able to successfully participate in foundation skills learning?

Consider:

- ▶ the circumstances that made accessing and participating in foundation skills a challenge for your participants.
- ▶ personal and/or career barriers that prevented your participants from accessing training and securing sustainable employment or a career/learning pathway
- ▶ how your organisation motivated participants to start their learning journey
- ▶ the challenges participants faced while completing their course or training and how your organisation addressed them.

(Limit: 400 words)

Criterion 2: Innovation in training to overcome barriers

How your organisation demonstrates innovation in the design, delivery, and participation strategies for foundation skills learning?

Consider:

- ▶ how innovation and excellence in training design and delivery methods helped participants overcome barriers to accessing and completing training
- ▶ retention and support strategies your organisation implemented to help participants stay engaged and successfully complete their course or training.

(Limit: 400 words)

Criterion 3: How has adult community education benefited your participants?

Describe how your organisation's adult community education programs have positively impacted participants.

Consider:

- ▶ what your organisation has learned from delivering these programs and how your organisation has applied these learnings to improve outcomes
- ▶ how the courses or training your organisation has developed have assisted participants in achieving their goals
- ▶ how your organisation measures the success and progress of participants.

(Limit: 400 words)

Attachments

Up to **ten** single A4 page attachments to be provided at a 100 per cent ratio, with one document per page.

All attachments need to be referenced in the nomination.

VET Innovation for Schools

The VET Innovation for Schools Award recognises excellence in schools that are developing innovative and new mechanisms for encouraging VET pathways in their schools so that their models and programs can be publicised and shared with schools across the state.

Please note this is a South Australia-only award category. Nominees are encouraged to consider submitting a direct entry to the Australian Training Awards in the School Pathways to VET Award category.

Eligibility criteria

Your organisation must:

- ▶ have delivered VET programs to secondary school students within the past two years
- ▶ have delivered VET programs based on a national training package or accredited course that led to qualifications or a Statement of Attainment under the Australian Qualifications Framework
- ▶ ensure VET programs are also based on the SACE Board register of accredited training for use in schools.

Collaborative ventures between schools and other VET stakeholders (including public and/or private RTOs and Group Training Organisations) are encouraged. One application will be accepted for collaborative ventures of this nature.

Preparing your nomination

Section A: Overview

Provide a brief description of your program, including the reasons why you are applying for this award.

(Limit: 500 words)

*This information will **not** be considered or used for judging purposes, but it may be used as your summary throughout the Awards process.*

Section B: Selection Criteria

Criterion 1: Innovation in VET pathways

Describe the training and include consideration of:

- ▶ your teaching and learning environments, including any unique aspects
- ▶ integration of VET within the general school learning environment, and how you ensure this links with recognised training as well as employment opportunities
- ▶ development of vocational skills as well as foundation skills
- ▶ innovative structure, content, delivery and assessment of your VET programs that sets you apart from other schools and training organisations
- ▶ capacity to share and replicate your VET program (and the systems you have developed to enable this) with other schools and training organisations across the state.

(Limit: 800 words)

Criterion 2: Strategic and best practice

Describe how your school plans, coordinates and resources VET; include consideration of:

- ▶ the extent to which you consider state and national labour market needs and industry skills requirements
- ▶ flexible curriculum and timetabling that allows for structured workplace learning and flexible vocational pathways
- ▶ engagement with ongoing VET policy reform at both national and state levels
- ▶ the breadth of resources used for VET and how you acquire and manage those resources
- ▶ processes implemented to ensure the sustainability of your VET programs.

(Limit: 800 words)

Criterion 3: Student and staff focus

Describe how your school measures the success of VET; include consideration of:

- ▶ how VET programs are leading to successful outcomes for students in further education, training and skilled careers
- ▶ the collection and analysis of data on student progress, transition and completions
- ▶ identifying and meeting the training requirements and professional development needs of your staff
- ▶ the impact of your VET programs on students, including any who may (in some way) be marginalised
- ▶ your review of the effectiveness of your VET programs to ensure continuous improvement at both a program and school level.

(Limit: 800 words)

Criterion 4: Employer and community collaboration

Describe the impact of your VET programs on local employers and the broader community; include consideration of:

- ▶ the collaboration you have developed to ensure students have ease of transition to earning or further learning
- ▶ the support your VET programs have received from local employers and the broader community
- ▶ the expansion of available training pathways, in particular for the broader community
- ▶ promotion of VET and student outcomes (both internally and externally)
- ▶ the change in attitude towards skilled careers among the schooling sector and broader community.

(Limit: 800 words)

Attachments

Up to **ten** single A4 page attachments to be provided at a 100 per cent ratio, with one document per page.

All attachments need to be referenced in the nomination.



“Winning the South Australian Training Awards Small Training Provider of the Year was an incredible experience for Bowhill Engineering. Hearing the stories of other passionate finalists strengthened our belief in the power of vocational education and training to build a skilled and future-ready workforce. The awards process gave us valuable insight into how other organisations use VET to grow their people, and it opened the door to new connections, learning opportunities and ideas we’ve brought back to our own business.


Bringing the win home to regional SA and celebrating with our team was truly special. It reinforced that our commitment to transforming our people and our community—through real skills, real careers and real success stories—reflects our purpose: Together We Thrive.


Being referred to the Australian Training Awards and taking home the national title was thrilling and deeply humbling. We encourage others to nominate—there is so much growth, pride and opportunity to gain. Being a VET Ambassador is an honour we hold proudly.”

BOWHILL ENGINEERING

2025 South Australian Training Awards Small Training Provider of the Year
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SA Training
Awards 2026


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