

# NSW Training Awards 2026

## Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year

### Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Nominations close 2 February 2026



The NSW Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Award recognises the achievement of a learner who displays a strong understanding and knowledge of the Vocational Education & Training (VET) system and demonstrates the relevance of lifelong learning for themselves and their community.

## Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for this award you must:

- be Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- meet the eligibility for one of the following individual award categories

Please refer to the eligibility under each award:

- Apprentice of the Year
- School-based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year
- Trainee of the Year
- Vocational Student of the Year

## Preparing your nomination

How do I nominate?

In 2026, the NSW Training Awards have changed to self-nominations. This means that you will lodge your own nomination and must specify an Endorser as part of it. Any nominations without an endorser will be deemed ineligible.

Please collate your supporting documentation as outlined on Page 2.

## What is an Endorser?

An Endorser is someone who validates your nomination. This endorsement supports your nomination.

An Endorser can be:

- Employer or host employer
- Teacher/trainer from their Registered Training Organisation (RTO)
- Career Adviser, Principal, Teacher from your school (School-based Apprentices or Trainees only)
- Group Training Organisation (GTO)
- Apprentice Connect Australia Provider (ACAPs)

Once you have submitted your nomination, your Endorser will receive an email requesting them to endorse your nomination. This is an essential requirement for all nominations.

## Endorser Comments

Endorsers are required to submit a response that outlines why you should be recognised for your achievements.

They may want to cover:

- your job skills
- your training
- your industry knowledge
- your personal skills

**Your region is based on the the individual award category you meet eligibility for.**

Photo: James Barry,  
2025 NSW Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander  
Student of the Year



## Section A: Overview (300 word limit)

Provide a short overview covering a description of the qualification you enrolled in, your RTO and employer (if applicable), as well as your reason for choosing this industry and training pathway.

*Note: 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: Entry Criteria

You are required to address each criterion. Your responses are used to assess your nomination and shortlist nominees for interviews.

Please ensure your responses clearly address each criterion, using examples and evidence to support your statements. Judging panels will be looking for evidence of how your training has contributed to your career and study plans, the development of your skills and achievements to date, as well as any way in which your training may have helped you in honing other skills or undertaking other pursuits.

In developing your nomination, please consider the suggestions below. These suggestions are examples of relevant experiences that can be considered evidence of achievements, skills, and personal qualities.

### Criterion 1: Career and study achievements (400 word limit)

Consider things such as:

- Why did you choose your course?
- How has it changed or impacted you?
- What have you gained from it?
- Have you had to address any challenges that have impacted on your training?

### Criterion 2: Team and communication skills (400 word limit)

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

- What have you been able to tell others, students, mates etc. about your training?
- What do you like about working in a team setting?
- What traits do you think are important to positively influence others?

### Criterion 3: Ability to be an Ambassador\* (representative) for training in Australia (400 word limit)

\*Ambassadors are representatives for Vocational Education and Training in NSW and Australia.

Tell us about:

- Provide examples where you have taken a leadership role inside or outside of training/work?
- What other activities have you been involved in where you have been a representative?
- How would you describe the quality of your training?

### Criterion 4: Community Engagement (400 word limit)

You may wish to include information about:

- How are you connected with your community?
- How has the training impacted your community?
- What qualities do you have or activities you have been involved in that you feel would be useful in your role as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander of the Year?
- Your achievements in areas other than study and work.

### Supporting Attachments

The Award criteria should be the focus of your nomination. Relevant evidence can be provided to support your nomination.

Any supporting attachment should be referenced in your nomination. **Minimum of 2 and maximum of 5 attachments.**

Please refer to the individual award category you meet eligibility for:

- » [Apprentice of the Year](#)
- » [School-based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year](#)
- » [Trainee of the Year](#)
- » [Vocational Student of the Year](#)