

NSW Training Awards 2026

Be Recognised

Central & Northern
Sydney



Digital Program

4 June 2026



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Cammeraygal people who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which this event is being held. We would like to pay our respect to the Elders both past and present, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People present this evening.



Title: Ceremonies

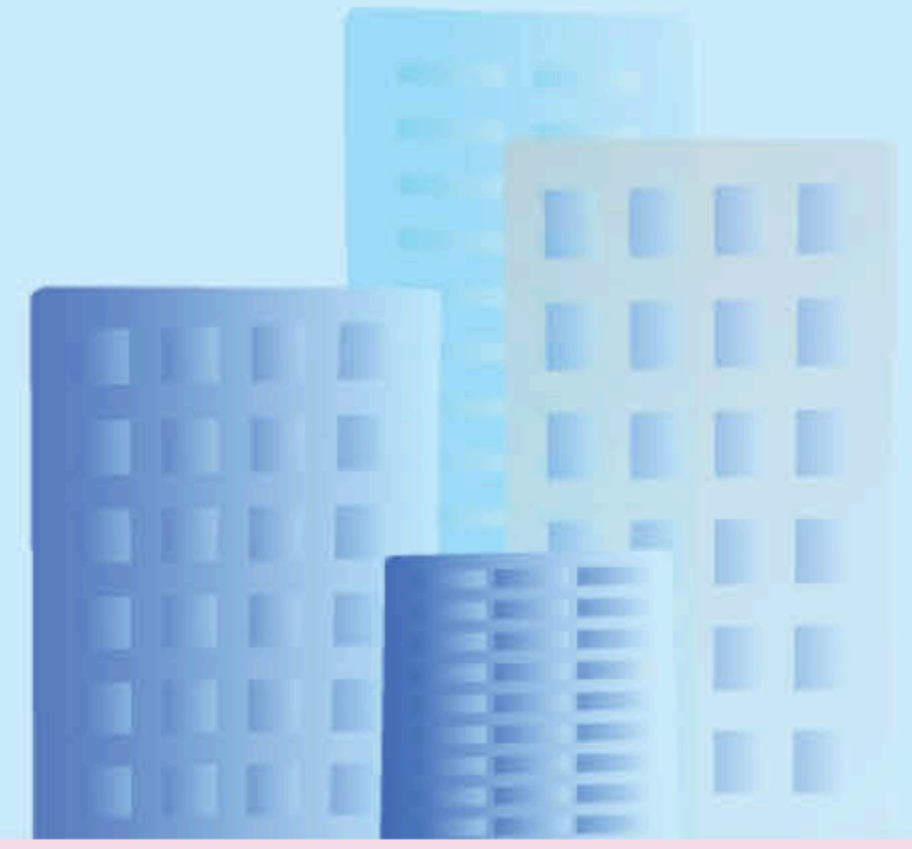
Artist: WUPA Artist - Craig Layer

The main circle in the centre represents the Jobs Together Program and like an important meeting place draws others to it. The circles attached to it are other support mechanisms associated with the program such as our communities and Aboriginal mentors.

The three symbols above and below the main circle represent our elders and their cultural knowledge and how important it is that Aboriginal culture be central to the success of the Jobs Together Program.

The three dotted lines going into and coming out from the circles represents both the journey taken by Aboriginal people as they endeavour to find education and employment pathways as well as being a threefold cord that is hard to break and symbolises the strength that comes from having Aboriginal and Non Aboriginal working collaboratively together.

Thank you to our 2026 State Sponsors



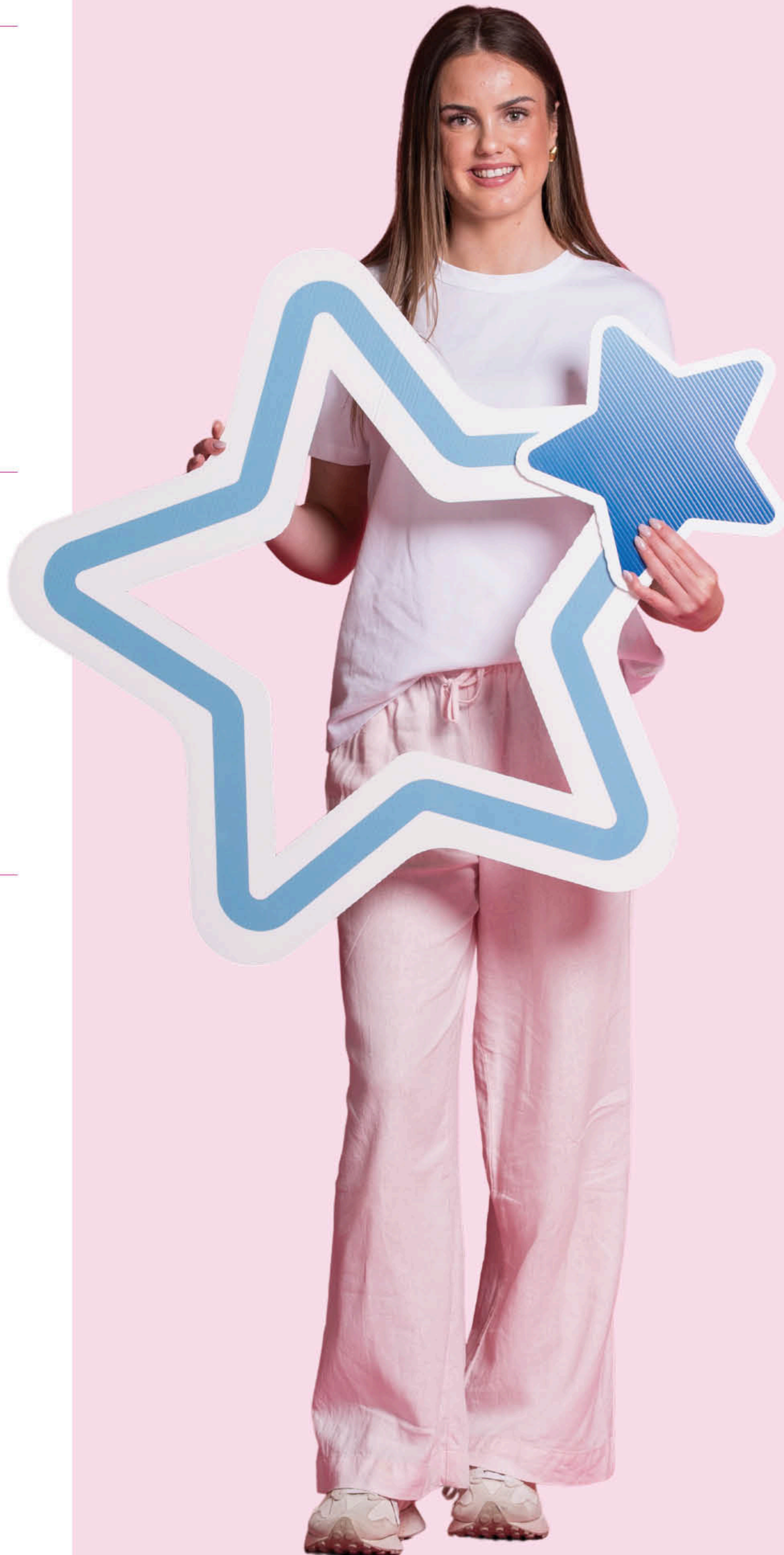
Diamond Sponsor



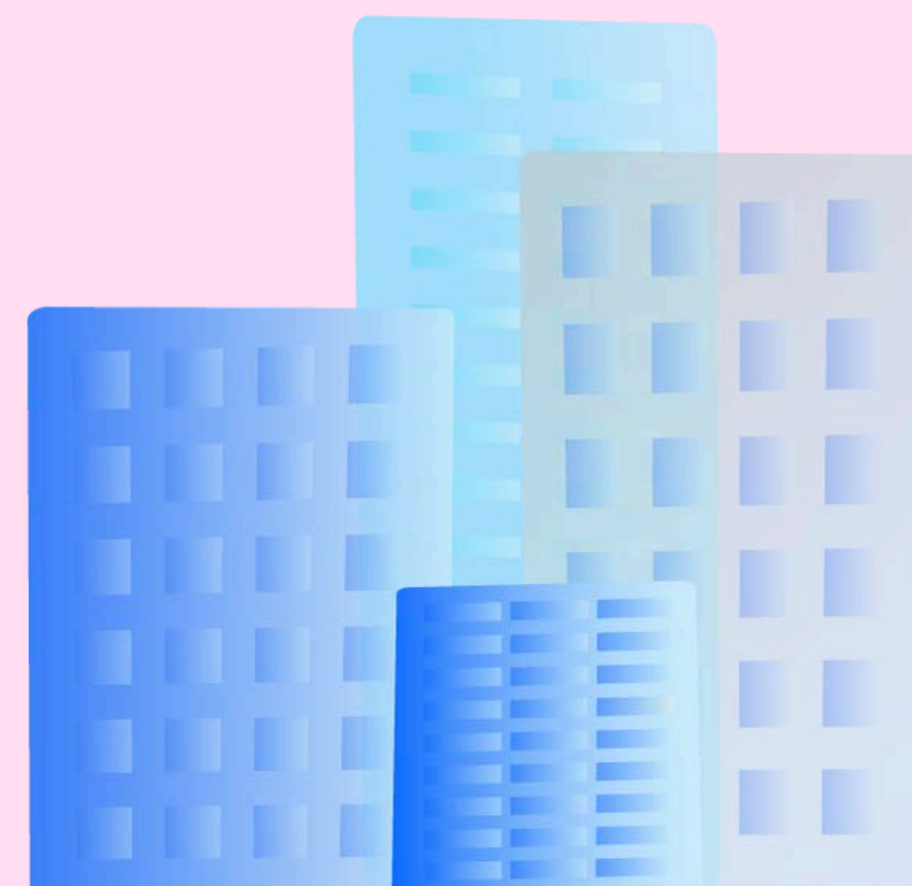
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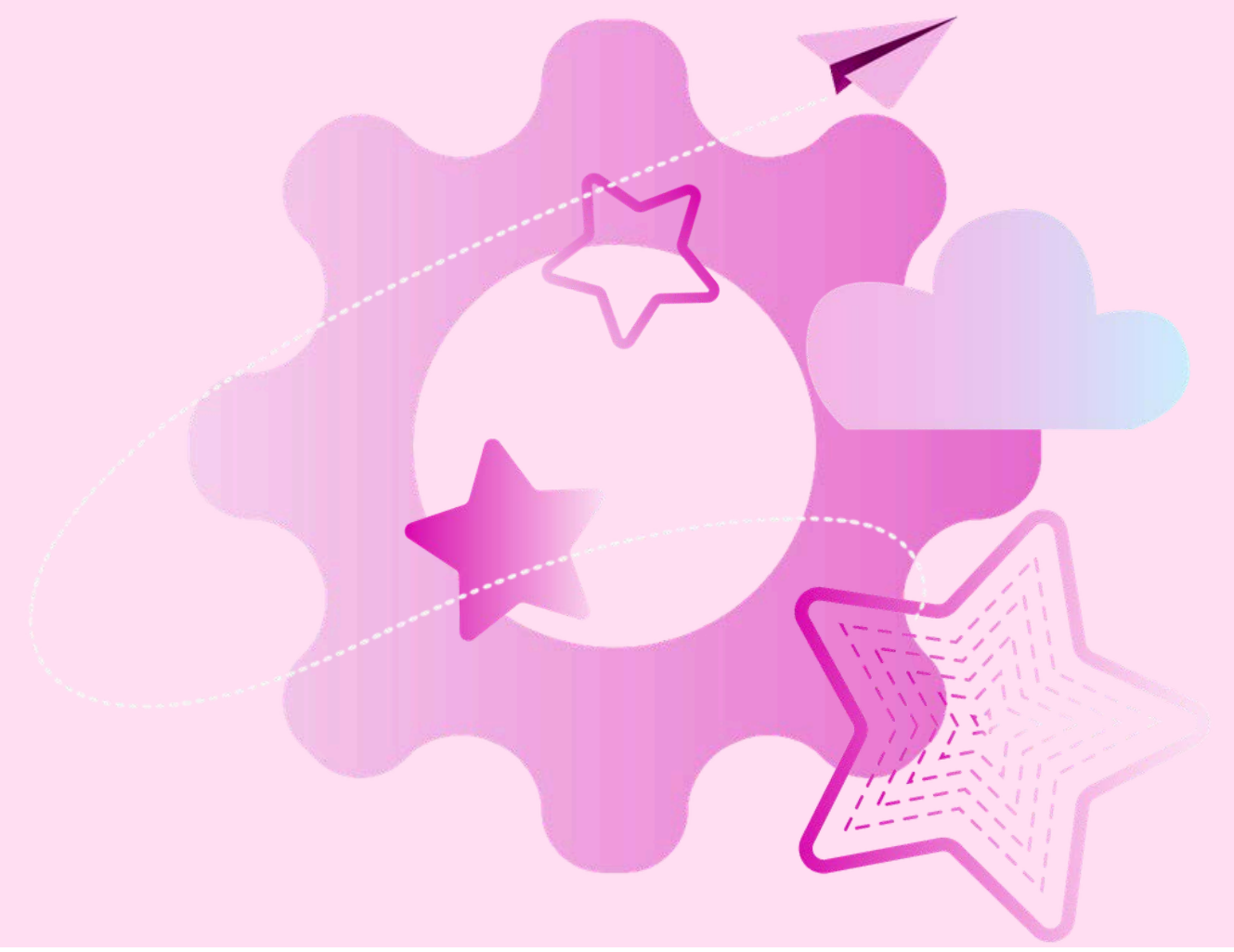
Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



Order Of Proceedings



Welcome to Country

Uncle Daniel McDonald

Master of Ceremonies Introduction

Stephen Ryan

VET Professional

Former Senior Project Officer,
NSW Department of Education

Bridie Searle

2023 Australian Trainee of the Year

Welcome Address

Entertainment

**NSW Public Schools Aboriginal
Dance Events Troupe**

VET Ambassador Speech

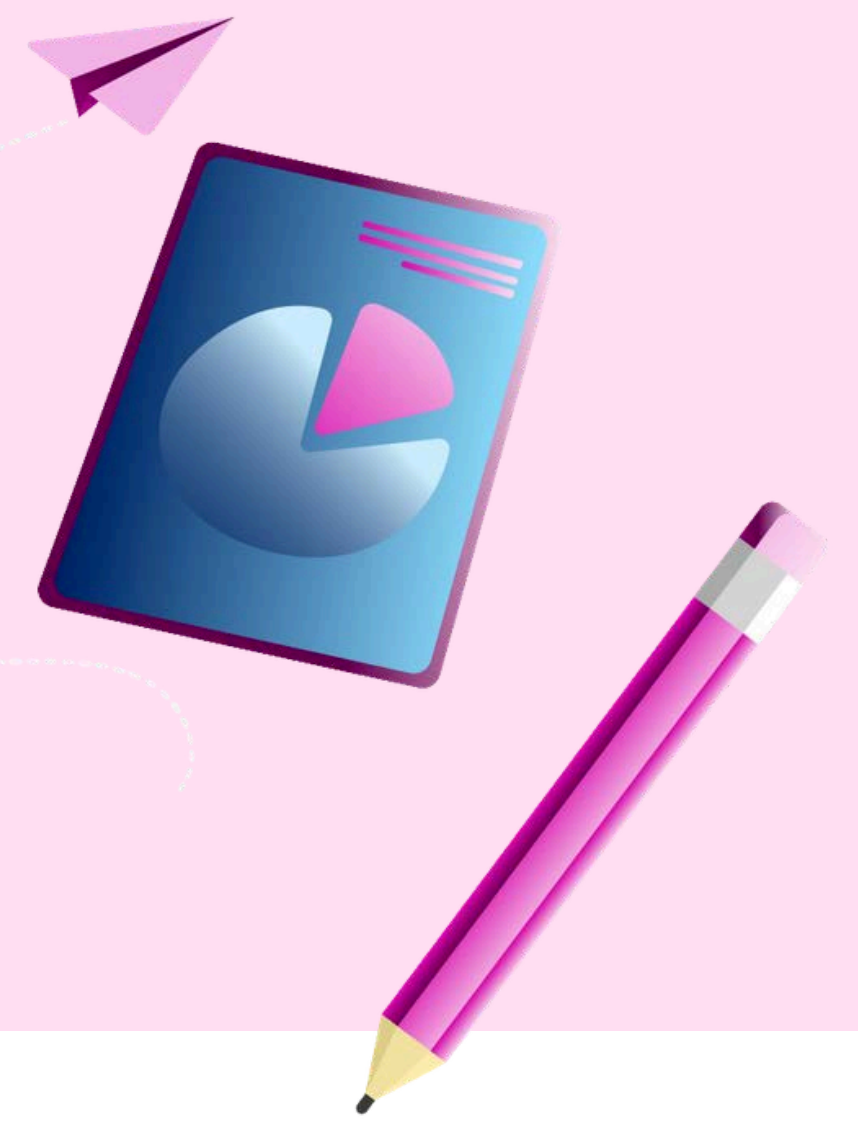
Bridie Searle

Award Categories

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



Message from the Regional Manager



Central & Northern Sydney

I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather this evening, the Cammeraygal people, and pay my respects to Elders past, present, and emerging. I also extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with us tonight.

Welcome to the 2026 Central & Northern Sydney Regional Training Awards, a celebration of excellence, determination, and the impact of vocational education and training. Tonight we recognise not only achievements but the perseverance and commitment that have brought each of you here.

To our finalists and winners, your dedication and resilience have set you apart. The skills and knowledge you have developed shape your futures and strengthen our industries and communities. You should be proud of what you have achieved.

Your stories embody the value of vocational education: opening doors, creating opportunities, and empowering rewarding careers. As you move forward, take confidence in the strong foundation you have built and the potential ahead.

I acknowledge our Master of Ceremonies, Stephen Ryan and Bridie Searle and thank Daniel McDonald for delivering Welcome to Country and sharing his cultural knowledge. We are honoured to have past award winners and ambassadors here, including Maddison Camilleri, Janaya Millgate, Megan Cox and Kelsey Commons, whose journeys inspire us all. Thanks also to Karyn and Gaius from Photographic Memory for capturing tonight's event.

Finally, sincere thanks to our special guests, sponsors, partners, families, friends, and the Central & Northern Sydney Training Services team for your support. Congratulations to all finalists and winners. Tonight marks the start of greater success ahead.

Derek Hennessy

Central & Northern Sydney Regional Manager
Regional Training Services

Meet Our Masters of Ceremonies

Helping us celebrate tonight are our fantastic Master of Ceremonies — passionate ambassadors for Vocational Education and Training. Having undertaken their own VET journey, they embody the transformative power of vocational education and are proud representatives of its impact.



Stephen Ryan

Stephen is a seasoned VET professional with over 20 years' experience and a strong commitment to vocational education. Recently retired, he is graciously hosting tonight's Central & Northern Sydney region awards, bringing invaluable expertise from his extensive career. Stephen has judged regional awards previously and this year's NSW Training Awards, showing dedication to VET excellence.

Starting as a Painter and Decorator apprentice with the NSW government, he developed a passion for VET, furthering his studies and earning a teaching degree. Before retirement, Stephen worked as a Senior Project Officer for the NSW Department of Education's RIEP Program, leading initiatives supporting school leavers, subject selections, SBATs, and work experience across 48 schools in 2023-24.

His background includes hospitality roles on ocean liners, management at the NSW Business Chamber's Apprentice Centre, and 15 years teaching hospitality and business at TAFE NSW. His diverse experience continues to inspire the VET community.

Bridie Searle

Bridie's career began with a traineeship at Thales Australia Limited, where she completed a Certificate IV in Project Management Practice. Now the Training Coordinator at Thales, Bridie's natural aptitude for hands-on learning and strong mentorship helped her excel quickly, earning her recognition as the company's "most sought-after Project Superintendent" and a next-generation leader.



Since completing her traineeship, Bridie launched ReadySkills, a business delivering tailored life skills workshops across schools, community organisations, employment services, and youth justice sectors. She is also the author of *Life, Work & All the Things I Wish Someone Taught Me*, sharing her experiences and lessons as a teenager who left home early to join the workforce. Currently studying a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, Bridie is committed to practising what she preaches by continually developing her training and leadership skills.

In 2023, Bridie was honoured as New South Wales Trainee of the Year and Australian Training Awards Trainee of the Year. Winning these awards gave her the confidence to start her own venture and trust that her skills and voice truly matter.



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BSI Learning is a leading Australian Registered Training Organisation with over 25 years' experience delivering vocational training across diverse sectors. Our expertise encompasses VET accredited courses, corporate training, and bespoke eLearning solutions, tailored to meet specific organisational needs.

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Our strong partnerships with infrastructure leaders – such as SafeWork NSW, Sydney Water, Transgrid, Ausgrid, Transport for NSW, major Tier One contractors and their subcontractors – ensure our programs remain industry-aligned and outcomes-focused.

A proud contributor to Infrastructure Skills Legacy Projects, HSAS plays a key role in closing skills gaps and supporting workforce diversity. Our standout SBAT Civil Construction Traineeship initiative, developed with CathWest, CPB and Gamuda, offers senior secondary students valuable on-site experience.

With a strategic presence in Greater Western Sydney, HSAS is committed to building a skilled workforce to support sustainable infrastructure for future generations.



Trainees and Apprentices

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Celebrating Excellence: Thales' Commitment to Training Awards

At **Thales**, we believe in investing in the next generation of talent to build capability and skills for the future. Our commitment to fostering growth and innovation is reflected in our sponsorship of the Central & Northern Sydney Training Awards which recognise and celebrate apprentices and trainees across various fields.

By supporting these awards, we aim to inspire young people to strive for excellence. It's important to acknowledge the dedication, fresh perspective and enthusiasm that apprentices and trainees bring. At Thales, we are proud to support their journey, providing opportunities that pave the way for our future leaders.

Over the last 10 years, the Above Water Systems business at Thales has assisted over 100 trainees and apprentices to qualify in their chosen field, building true Australian Industry Capability. Through these efforts, we are shaping the careers of individuals while contributing to a skilled workforce to partner with Navy to keep Australia safe.



Congratulations

TO ALL 2026 REGIONAL FINALISTS

WE WISH YOU THE BEST OF
LUCK



Vocational Student of the Year Finalist

Grace Hardy



Qualification

Certificate III in Health Services Assistance

Training Provider

NSW Health RTO

Grace Hardy has completed a Certificate III in Health Services Assistance through NSW Health RTO at Sydney Education, Rozelle. By balancing her HSC studies with hands on training, Grace developed advanced clinical skills, including patient care, observations and documentation.

Known for her exceptional communication and teamwork, she excelled during clinical placements, consistently delivering patient centred care with empathy. Her dedication was reflected in her outstanding academic performance, notably achieving second place in the Human Services HSC examination.

Beyond her formal studies, Grace volunteers with Surf Life Saving NSW, applying her skills in real life emergency situations. Her resilience, strengthened through personal caregiving experiences, has deepened her commitment to compassionate healthcare. Grace now aspires for a career in critical care, driven by a strong sense of purpose. Recognised for her leadership and diligence, she is a positive advocate for vocational education and training.



VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year Finalist

Benjamin Crisp

Field Of Study
Screen and Media

Employer
TAFE NSW



Benjamin Crisp is a highly regarded screenwriting educator at TAFE NSW, specialising in learner centred teaching that integrates practical skill building with a strong focus on empathy and human connection. Holding a PhD and extensive qualifications in education and creative practice, Ben teaches across Certificate III, Diploma and Advanced Diploma programs, transforming traditional training with his innovative, values-driven approach.

This method empowers students to align their creative projects with personal values such as purpose, autonomy and wellbeing, fostering confidence and resilience necessary to improve engagement and retention. Ben's teaching methods have been adopted widely, influencing curriculum design and securing international recognition for student work.

He actively supports diverse learners, including neurodivergent and mature-age students, embedding psychosocial safety and trauma informed practices into his teaching. As a committed advocate for vocational education and training, Ben exemplifies how vocational education shapes both skilled professionals and empowered individuals, blending craft mastery with genuine human growth.

VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year Finalist

Christopher Davies



Field Of Study

Foundation Skills

Employer

BSI Learning

Christopher Davies is a dedicated trainer and assessor at BSI Learning Institute. With seven years of experience and a unique background as a dual-qualified VET practitioner and former Executive Chef, Christopher specialises in Foundation Skills. He delivers adaptive, vocationally contextualised training to diverse, at-risk learners within Correctional Services NSW.

His innovative methodology transforms abstract numeracy and literacy concepts into practical, relevant tasks, such as recipe scaling and construction estimation, engaging learners who have previously struggled with traditional education. By fostering a trauma informed and psychologically safe environment, Chris nurtures self-esteem and academic growth, effectively addressing complex learning barriers and psychosocial needs.

Chris's commitment extends beyond the classroom, mentoring new trainers and integrates digital literacy to prepare learners for successful reintegration and employment. Recognised for personalised, empathetic and personalised instruction, Chris helps learners bridge past experiences with future opportunities, embodying the transformative potential of VET in breaking cycles of recidivism and empowering marginalized populations.



VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year Finalist

Stephen Roberts

Field Of Study
Business Services

Employer
Independent Schools NSW



Stephen Roberts is a highly experienced Business Services educator and leader at Newington College, under Independent Schools NSW. With over 30 years in secondary education, Stephen has successfully embedded Vocational Education and Training (VET) within a traditionally academic environment, championing it as a rigorous and future focused pathway.

Holding a Bachelor of Education and a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, he expertly delivers VET Business Services and oversees diverse programs including Construction, Entertainment and Hospitality. Stephen's authentic leadership is evident in his ability to leverage real student successes, validating the impact of the VET system's.

A mentor within the AIS network, he guides peers and advocates for the relevance of VET pathways. His strategic initiatives, including the innovative Career Journeys framework, have increased and strengthened outcomes. Stephen's dedication to quality teaching and industry alignment ensures students are well prepared for employment or further study, embodying the transformative power of VET as both an educator and an advocate.

VET in Schools Student of the Year Finalist

Zoe Aronis



Qualification

Certificate III in Live Production and Technical Services

Training Provider

Independent Schools NSW

School

Stella Maris College Manly

Zoe Aronis is completing a Certificate III in Live Production and Technical Services through Independent Schools NSW at Stella Maris College, Manly. Driven by Passion for the entertainment industry, she has built a reputation for professionalism and technical excellence across staging, lighting, sound and event coordination.

Zoe has successfully navigated challenges related to a hearing impairment by developing effective strategies that allow her to perform confidently in high pressure environments. Zoe values Vocational Education and Training (VET) for its individualised approach, which caters to her specific needs and enables her to thrive.

Her strong communication skills and collaborative spirit make Zoe a valued team member among peers and industry professionals alike. With a proactive attitude and creative problem-solving abilities, Zoe is a committed professional and a positive advocator of VET. Her resilience, passion and adaptability ensure she is well-equipped for a flourishing career in the live entertainment sector.



VET in Schools Student of the Year Finalist

Solomon Lee

Qualification

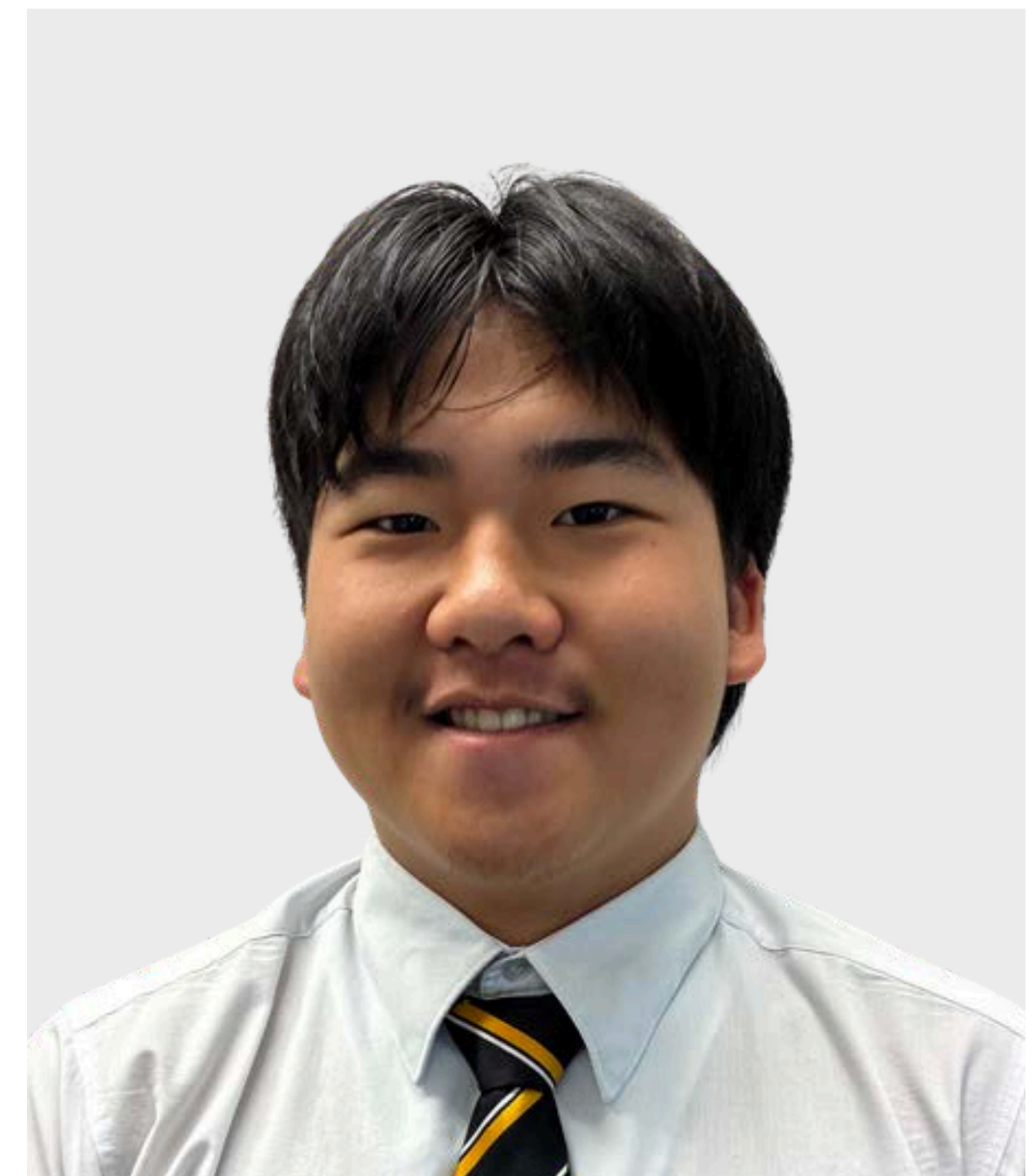
Certificate II in Construction Pathways

Training Provider

Sydney Catholic Schools

School

Corpus Christi College Maroubra



Solomon Lee is completing a Certificate II in Construction Pathways at Corpus Christi College Maroubra, delivered by Sydney Catholic Schools. Driven by a desire to explore future possibilities, Solomon has embraced hands on learning, gaining insight into the diverse roles and career options within the construction industry.

His training has equipped him with practical skills in safety, teamwork and project management, complemented by real world experience on site. Solomon thrives when working alongside peers and learning from industry professionals, appreciating how the course provides a clear “idea of what is out there.”

His commitment to personal growth is matched by his positive attitude and proactive approach to new challenges. Solomon views vocational education and training (VET) as an ideal pathway for discovering interests and building foundational skills. He plans to use his experience to inform his future career decisions, confident that VET has prepared him for further study or professional success.

VET in Schools Student of the Year Finalist

Amy Roelands



Qualification

Certificate II in Hospitality

Training Provider

NSW Department of Education

School

Asquith High School

Amy Roelands is undertaking a Certificate II in Hospitality through the NSW Department of Education at Asquith High School. Passionate about the industry, Amy has developed robust practical skills in food and beverage service, customer care and workplace health and safety.

She has successfully applied her learning in both real world and simulated settings, building significant confidence and professionalism. Amy has also made vital contributions to major school events, such as International Women's Day and ANZAC Day, where she demonstrated leadership, adaptability and a calm demeanour under pressure.

Her clear communication and collaborative approach have established her as a valued team member and emerging leader. Amy appreciates how VET connects classroom theory with industry expectations, allowing her to “learn the skills that you can use for your future”. Through resilience and positive attitude, Amy is well prepared for a successful career in hospitality.



School-based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year Finalist

Cienna Giles-Williams

Qualification

Certificate II in Animal Care

Training Provider

Taronga Training Institute

Employer

Taronga Conservation Society Australia

School

Corrimal High School



Cienna Giles-Williams is a Year 12 student at Corrimal High School completing a Certificate II in Animal Care as part of a school-based traineeship through the Taronga Training Institute. Working with Taronga Conservation Society Australia, Cienna has gained valuable hands-on experience in the industry she is passionate about and she encourages others by highlighting the variety of pathways available through VET.

Through her training Cienna has gained practical experience working alongside different animals including goats, chimpanzees and her favourite, snakes - though she admits, “I haven’t been bitten by a snake, but I get peed on every time by a Shingle Back”. Cienna advocates for VET because it allows students to explore different industries while staying engaged at school.

Since undertaking her school-based traineeship Cienna has developed strong teamwork, leadership and public speaking skills and continues to inspire younger students to pursue their passions.

School-based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year Finalist

Katherine Spitzerova



Qualification

Certificate III in Sport, Aquatics and Recreation

Training Provider

Australian Training Company

Employer

Leisure Employment Australia

Host Employer

Mosman Swim Centre

School

Narrabeen Sports High School

Katherine Spitzerova is a Year 12 student at Narrabeen Sports High School completing a Certificate III in Sport, Aquatics and Recreation through the Australian Training Company Ltd as part of a school-based traineeship with Leisure Employment Australia. Encouraged by her careers adviser, Katherine pursued this pathway inspired by her lifelong passion of swimming and the positive influence of her own swim coaches.

Her school-based traineeship has enabled her to develop strong skills in teaching, communication and behaviour management, creating a supportive and safe environment for her students at Mosman Swim Centre. Katherine particularly enjoys working with younger swimmers, building confidence and fostering a love for the water.

Katherine is valued for her professionalism and calm approach, consistently receiving positive feedback from students, parents and colleagues. She has also qualified as a Pool Lifeguard and continues to expand her skills. Katherine is a strong advocate for vocational pathways and the impact of positive role models.



School-based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year Finalist

Riley Turner

Qualification

Certificate III in Commercial Cookery

Training Provider

TAFE NSW

Employer

Pilu at Freshwater

School

The Forest High School



Riley Turner is completing a Certificate III in Commercial Cookery through TAFE NSW while undertaking a school-based apprenticeship at Pilu at Freshwater. His desire for cooking began in childhood, where he enjoyed preparing meals for family and friends, sparking a love for creating and sharing food.

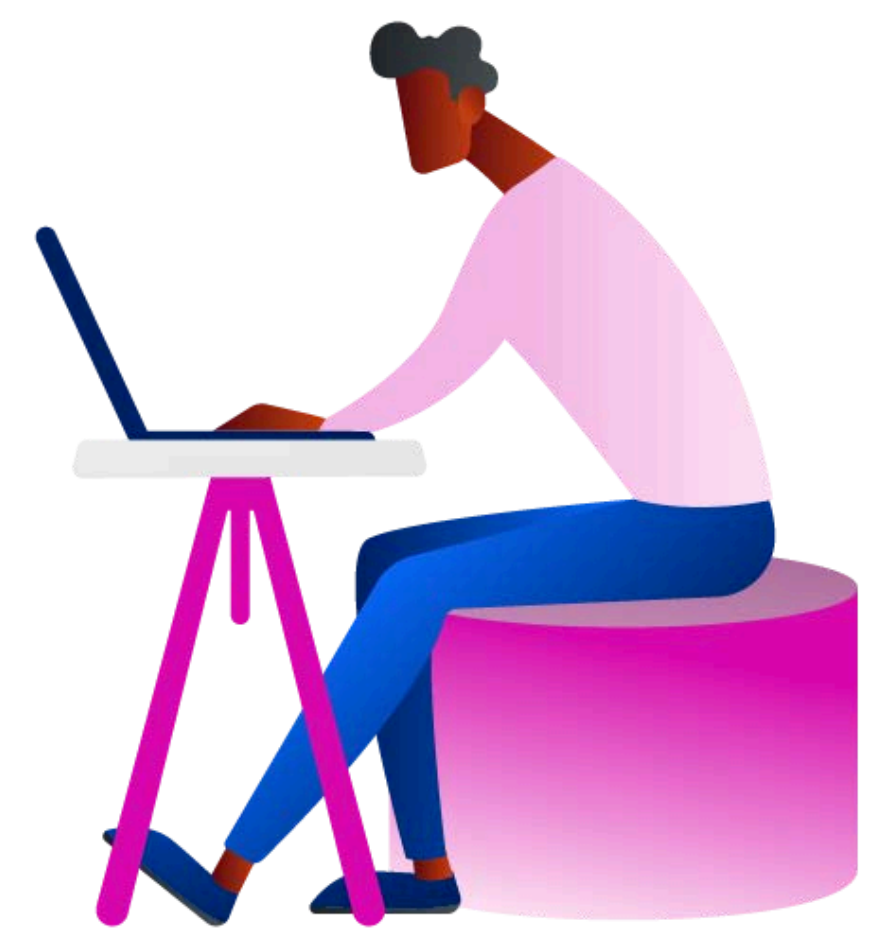
Riley describes his apprenticeship as an invaluable opportunity to pursue his passion while remaining connected to school and his peers. He feels truly blessed to work at Pilu, where he is developing strong culinary skills, professionalism and the ability to perform under pressure in a high-end kitchen.

Beyond his own journey, Riley has positively influenced his peers to explore vocational pathways, contributing to improved engagement at school. His dedication and growth are recognised by those around him, including his family who proudly support his achievements.

With a strong work ethic, positivity and genuine passion for the industry, Riley is a valued team member.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Finalist

Braidan Carr



Qualification

Certificate III in Accounts Administration

Training Provider

Australian College of Commerce & Management

Employer

WorkVentures Ltd

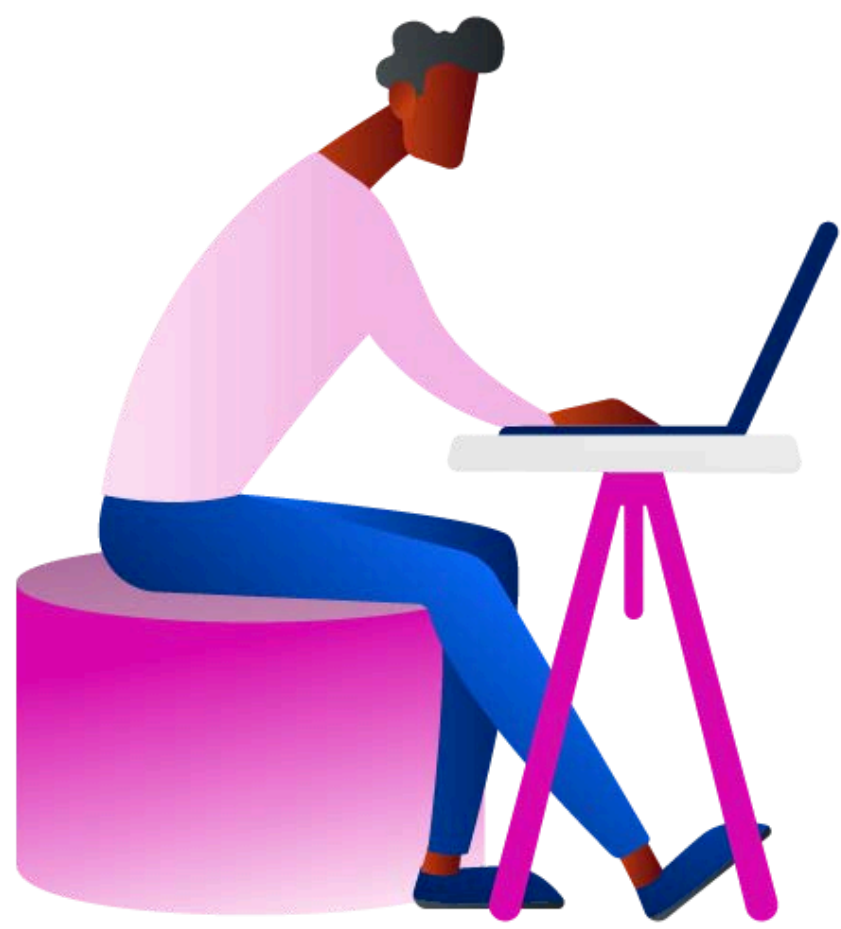
Host Employer

AbSec NSW Child, Family and Community Peak
Aboriginal Corporation

Braidan Carr has completed a Certificate III in Accounts Administration through the Australian College of Commerce & Management while undertaking a traineeship with WorkVentures, while working with AbSec NSW Child, Family and Community Peak Aboriginal Corporation.

His passion for finance grew after exploring various industries, including transport, hospitality and construction, ultimately discovering his enthusiasm for accounting. Braidan values the practical experience and support the traineeship provided, allowing him to work while studying and develop essential skills in finance processes, communication and teamwork.

Braidan is recognised for his positive attitude, strong work ethic and ability to build relationships, creating a supportive workplace culture. His dedication resulted in securing a full-time position with AbSec upon completing his traineeship. Braidan encourages other Aboriginal people to consider traineeships, highlighting their benefits and the opportunities they offer in underrepresented industries like finance. His journey exemplifies the transformative impact of vocational education and traineeships.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Finalist

Kiah Cronan

Qualification

Certificate III in Business

Training Provider

TAFE NSW

Employer

Department of Customer Service

School

St Johns Park High School

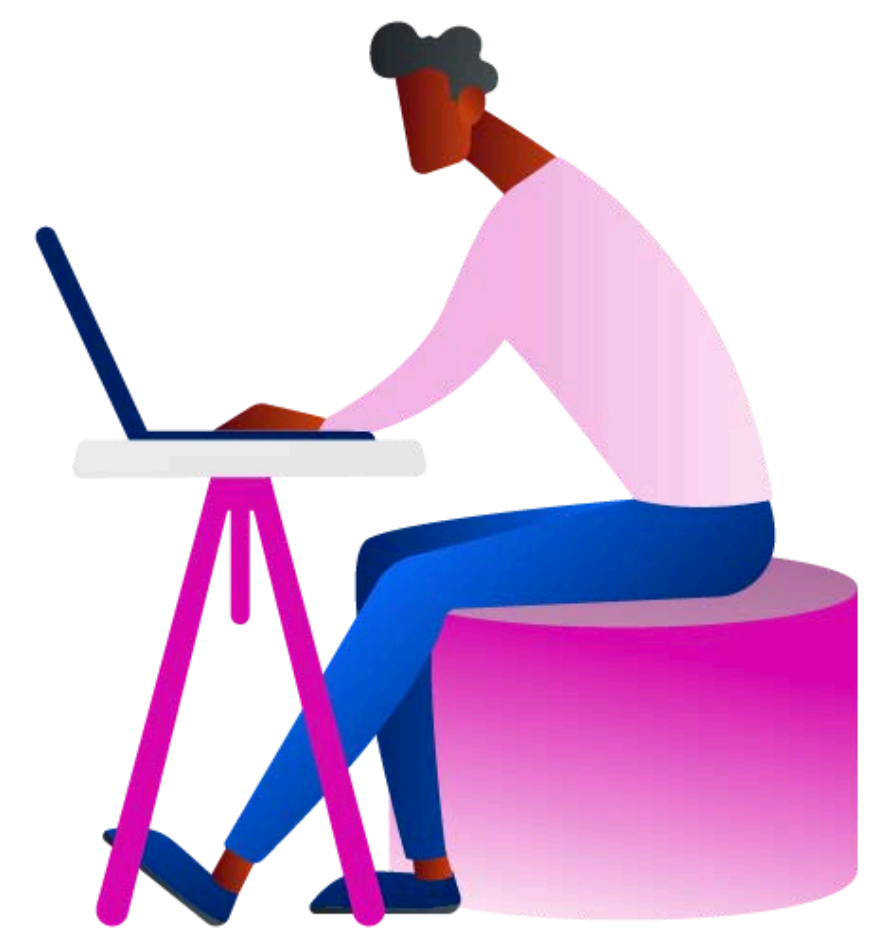


Kiah Cronan is completing a Certificate III in Business through TAFE NSW as part of a school-based traineeship with the Department of Customer Service. Over the past year, Kiah has gained valuable hands-on experience in a professional government environment, strengthening her computer skills and building confidence working within a team. She has successfully balanced the demands of school, off-the-job training and work by developing strong time management skills and using effective task planning.

Kiah's school-based traineeship has enhanced her communication, leadership and teamwork abilities, which she actively applies in both her role and school community. As an Indigenous student, she is passionate about supporting younger students through cultural activities and promoting vocational pathways. Her adaptability and professionalism have been praised by her endorsers, who highlight her reliability and eagerness to learn. Kiah's journey demonstrates how a school-based pathway creates opportunities and inspires others to pursue similar paths.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Finalist

Matilda Thearle



Qualification

Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance

Training Provider

NSW Health RTO

Employer

Sydney Local Health District

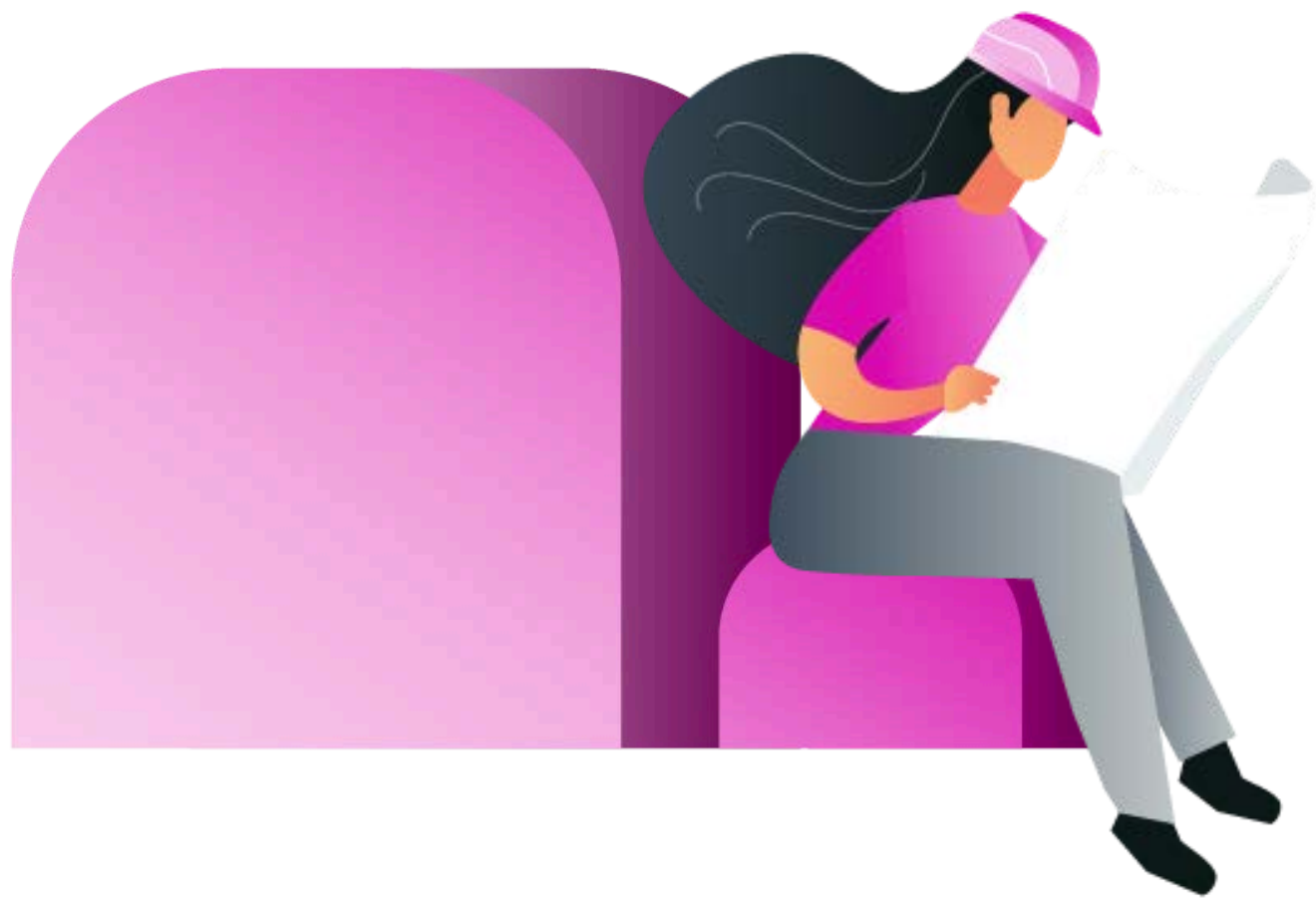
School

St Aloysius College Cronulla

Matilda Thearle is undertaking a Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance as part of a traineeship through NSW Health RTO, while completing her studies at St Aloysius College, Cronulla. She combines her learning with practical experience across facilities within the Sydney Local Health District, gaining valuable firsthand exposure in healthcare.

Her passion for occupational therapy was sparked through experience in a paediatric clinic, inspiring her to pursue a career supporting individuals to build independence and overcome challenges. Matilda has developed strong clinical, communication and teamwork skills and is recognised by mentors for her resilience and positive contribution to team environments.

Matilda has embraced the diversity of allied health with great enthusiasm and recognises the invaluable advantage that hands-on experience within the Sydney Local Health District provides in supporting her studies and future career aspirations. Her dedication, initiative and passion for patient-centred care position her as a promising future leader in the allied health field.



Trainee of the Year Finalist

Bec Dobson

Qualification

Certificate IV in Marketing and Communication

Training Provider

TAFE NSW

Employer

Zeal Futures

Host Employer

Service NSW



Bec Dobson has completed a Certificate IV in Marketing and Communication through TAFE NSW while undertaking a traineeship with Zeal Futures, hosted by Service NSW. Beginning her traineeship in May 2024, Bec embraced a bold career change after seven years in education, demonstrating resilience and a proactive approach to learning.

She quickly established herself as a highly capable and valued member of the Enterprise Engagement team, delivering high quality work and managing complex communications projects across the organisation. Bec has been recognised as Trainee of the Month and nominated for a Service NSW BRAVO Award, reflecting her professionalism and impact.

Her leadership skills have been further strengthened through the Emerge Leadership Program, where she developed communication, mentoring and self-awareness capabilities. Passionate about giving back, Bec volunteers with inclusive community groups and is a strong advocate for vocation education and lifelong learning.

Trainee of the Year Finalist

Tanisha Naylor-Moran



Qualification

Certificate III in Business

Training Provider

SportsReady Education

Employer

AFL SportsReady

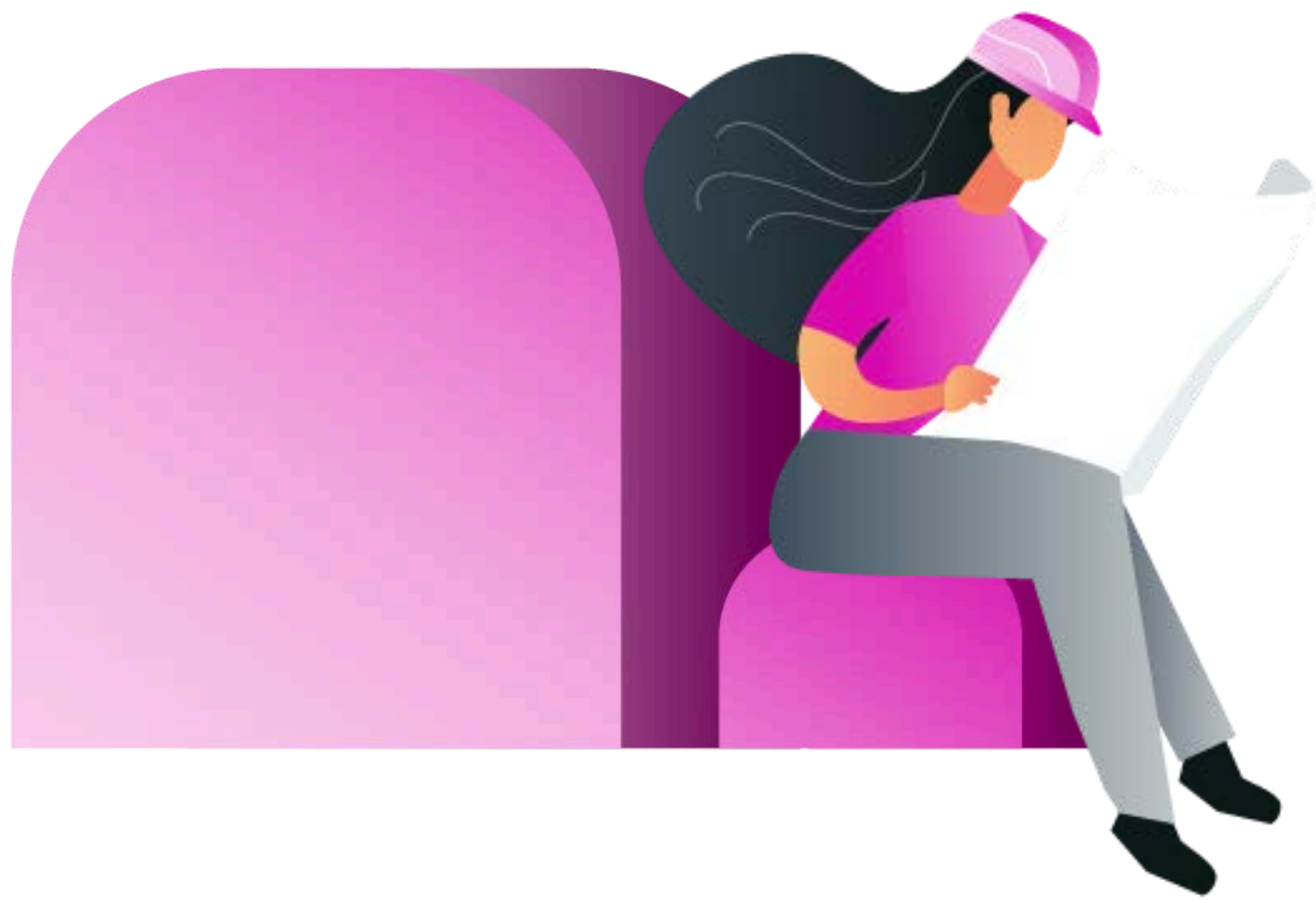
Host Employer

University of Sydney

Tanisha Naylor-Moran has completed a Certificate III in Business through SportsReady Education, employed by AFL Sports Ready and hosted by the University of Sydney. Enthusiastic about learning and building relationships, Tanisha’s traineeship has been transformative, combining practical experience in a busy academic library with formal training.

She has developed strong skills in administration, communication, event delivery and client service, gaining confidence and professionalism. Her ability to manage tasks with maturity, organisation and creativity has earned her a permanent role within the library. Tanisha embraces every opportunity to expand her skills across multiple teams, demonstrating reliability, teamwork and a collaborative spirit.

Encouraged by her journey, Tanisha considers her traineeship to be the boost that gets you to your goals and advises others to “find a good hobby you like and do that as a job.” Her dedication and positive approach position her well for a strong future in the library and administrative services.



Trainee of the Year Finalist

Connie Wu

Qualification

Certificate III in Early Childhood Education
and Care

Training Provider

Australian Child Care Career Options (ACCCO)

Pty Ltd

Employer

Kids Planet Academy



Connie Wu has completed a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care through Australian Child Care Career Options (ACCCO) Pty Ltd while employed at Kids Planet Academy. Connie values the practical skills gained through her training and the opportunity to apply them directly in the workplace.

Throughout her traineeship, she has demonstrated strong commitment and passion for early childhood education, consistently seeking to improve her knowledge and practice. Her dedication and enthusiasm have supported her to progress into leadership roles within the centre, where she assists both children and colleagues with care and guidance.

Connie embraces the chance to share her journey as an example of growth and resilience, demonstrating how vocational training can open doors to meaningful career pathways. She believes her experience reflects the empowering nature of VET programs and hopes to inspire others to pursue their ambitions in early childhood education through hands on learning and dedication.

Apprentice of the Year Finalist

Georgena Davis



Qualification

Certificate III in Commercial Cookery

Training Provider

TAFE NSW

Employer

Garfish

Georgena Davis has completed a Certificate III in Commercial Cookery with TAFE NSW while undertaking an apprenticeship at Garfish in Crows Nest. Inspired by her late mother's passion for cooking, Georgena has developed strong culinary skills, in food preparation, cooking techniques and food safety.

She thrives in the fast-paced kitchen environment and has demonstrated resilience, confidence and strong teamwork throughout her apprenticeship. Georgena is recognised for her professionalism, creativity and enthusiasm. She was awarded Best Dessert in a TAFE student competition, highlighting her technical skill and attention to detail.

As a valued member of the kitchen, she communicates effectively and supports her team while also mentoring new apprentices and work experience students. Endorsed by her employer for her dedication and capability, Georgena exemplifies the qualities of a committed chef.



Apprentice of the Year Finalist

Tori Yardley

Qualification

Certificate III in Hairdressing

Training Provider

TAFE NSW

Employer

Toni & Guy Newtown



Tori Yardley has completed a Certificate III in Hairdressing through TAFE NSW while completing an apprenticeship at Toni & Guy Newtown. After leaving a challenging workplace, Tori discovered her passion for hairdressing through encouragement from her own hairdresser and has since demonstrated exceptional commitment, completing her qualification months ahead of schedule and excelling in salon training.

Tori's creativity and technical skills have been recognised through multiple accolades including the Toni & Guy Apprentice of the Year, the Curate Apprentice Award, Wella Trend Vision Award and a finalist status in the AHIA Apprentice of the Year. She has contributed to photoshoots and Fashion Week, consistently delivering high quality work and client care.

Known for her drive, positivity and team spirit, Tori actively pursues new learning opportunities and leads by example. She is recognised by employers as a valuable team member with a strong future in the hairdressing industry.

Apprentice of the Year Finalist

Raymond Zahrooni



Qualification

Certificate III in Engineering - Mechanical Trade

Training Provider

TAFE NSW

Employer

Thales Australia Limited

Raymond Zahrooni completed a Certificate III in Engineering – Mechanical Trade through TAFE NSW, while undertaking an apprenticeship with Thales Australia Ltd. Inspired from a young age by STEM subjects and hands on projects, Raymond’s passion developed through competitions like Formula 1 in Schools, where he built skills in CAD, CAM and CNC machining.

Joining Thales at 17, Raymond embraced practical, on the job learning, gaining strong capabilities in machining, fault finding and working safely in high-risk environments. His apprenticeship has strengthened both his technical expertise and personal skills, including leadership, communication and problem-solving.

Raymond has taken on mentoring roles, supporting junior apprentices and promoting vocational pathways through STEM initiatives and school engagement. He completed his apprenticeship ahead of schedule and has commenced a Certificate IV in Engineering. Recognised for his professionalism and commitment, Raymond is a strong advocate for careers in engineering and trades.

Thank You



On behalf of the Central & Northern Sydney Regional Training Awards team, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous support and involvement in this year's program and event. Your contribution played a vital role in celebrating the achievements of our region's outstanding VET learners, trainees, apprentices, employers, and training providers.

Your commitment to fostering excellence in vocational education and training inspires future generations and strengthens our local workforce. We are truly grateful for your support and look forward to continuing this important work together.

Thank you once again for helping make the Central & Northern Sydney Training Awards a success.

