

NSW Training Awards 2026

Be Recognised

Southern & South
Western Sydney



Digital Program

21 May 2026



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we gather, the Cabrogal Clan of the Darug Nation, and recognise the Dharawal and Gundungurra Nations across our region and 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

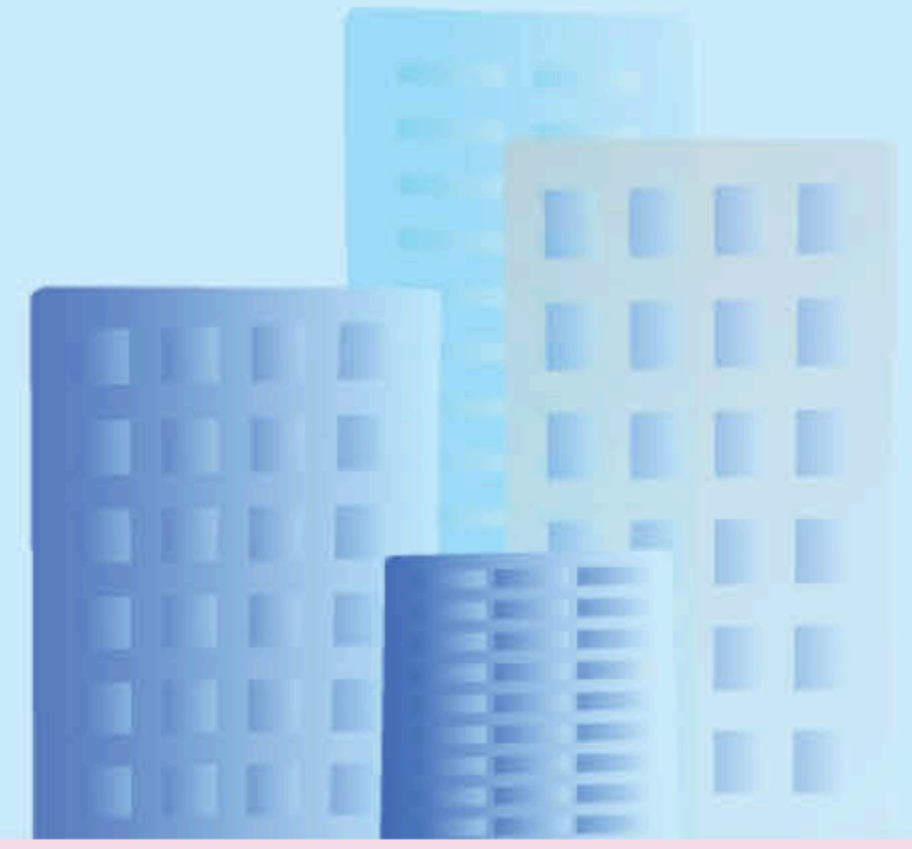
Artist: WUPA Artist - Craig Layer

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



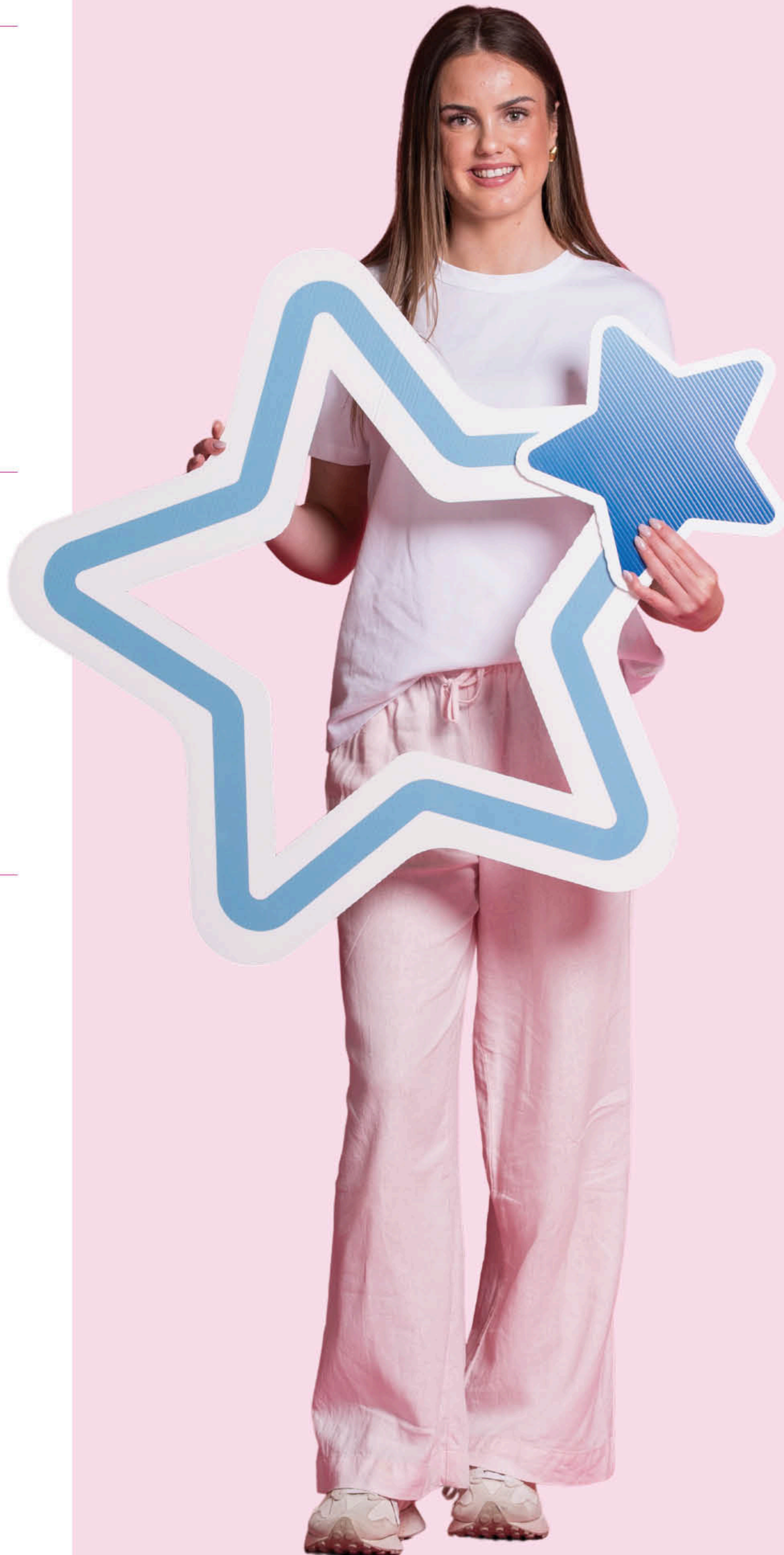
Diamond Sponsor



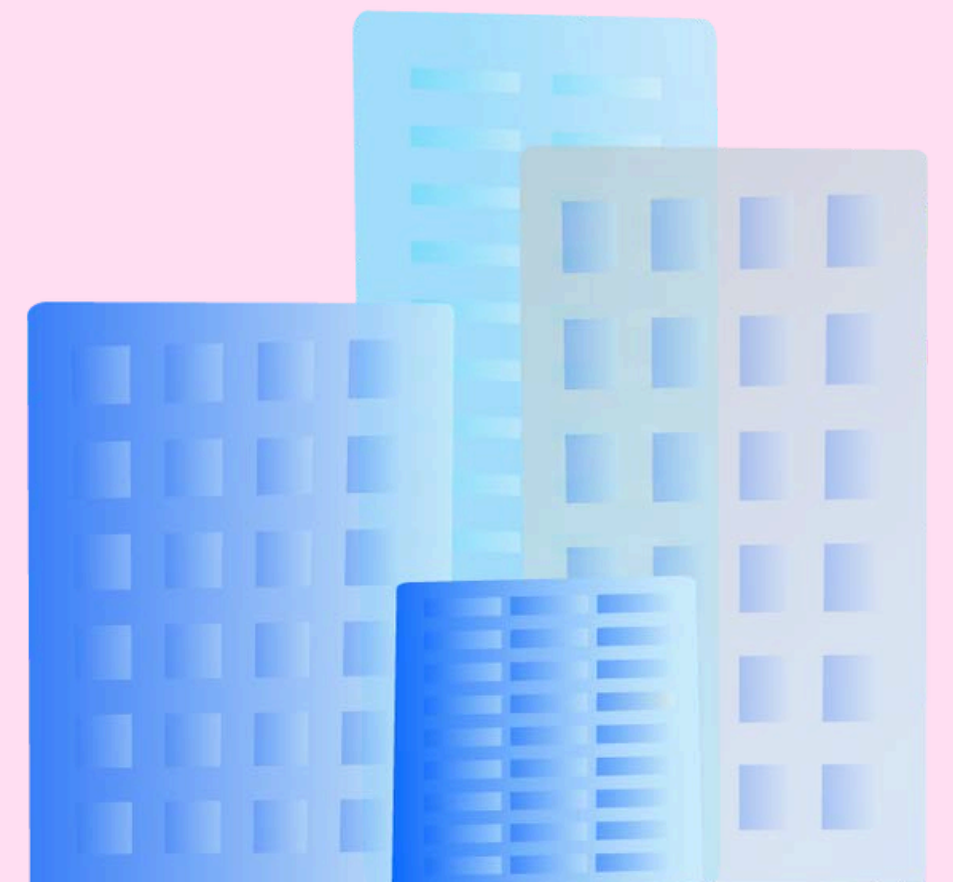
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Thank you to our 2026 Regional Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors

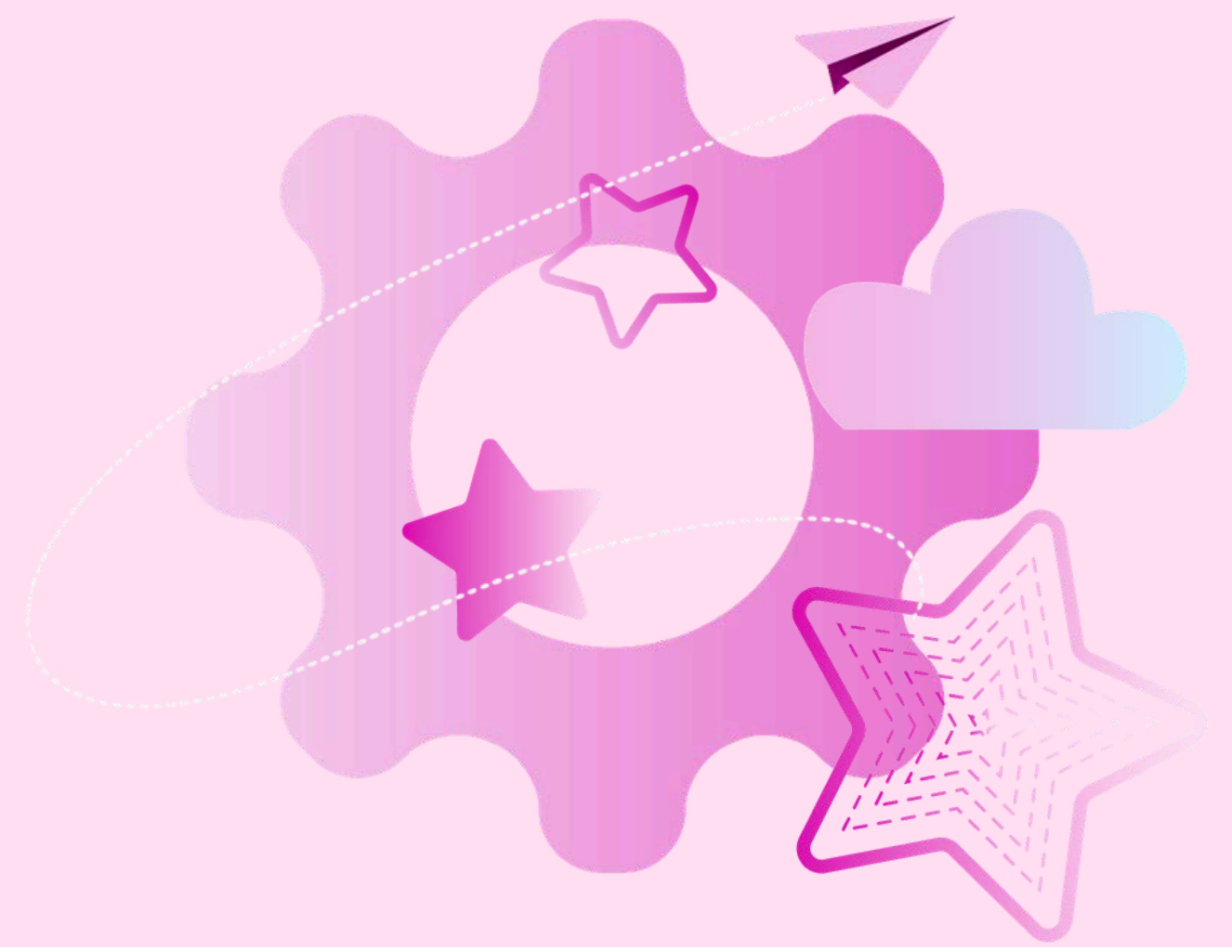
1300 apprentice



Bronze Sponsors



Order Of Proceedings



Welcome to Country

Aunty Thelmerie Rudd

Master of Ceremonies Introduction

Casey Fox

2022 NSW Vocational Student of the Year

Welcome Address

Charishma Kaliyanda MP

Member for Liverpool

Entertainment

Josh Sly, Wambull Woodworks

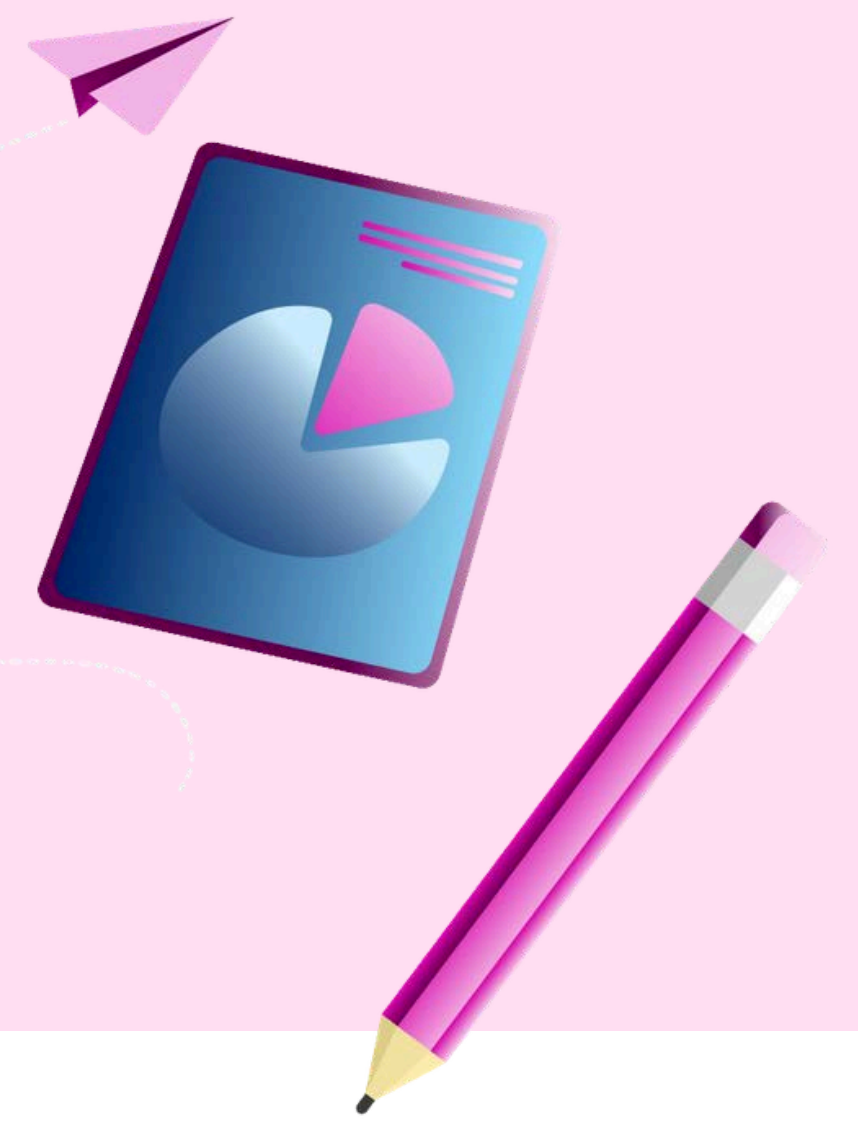
Thomas Reddall and Airs High Schools Dancers

Award Categories

- Vocational Student of the Year
- VET Trainer/Teacher 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



Southern & South Western Sydney

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we gather, the Cabrogal Clan of the Darug Nation, and recognise the Dharawal and Gundungurra Nations across our region. I pay my respects to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Tonight, we recognise the achievements of apprentices, trainees, students, and educators from across Southern and South Western Sydney.

As Regional Manager, I am proud to represent a region defined by diversity, growth, and opportunity. With major developments such as the Western Sydney International Airport, our region continues to create new pathways for skills, employment, and innovation.

The individuals we celebrate this evening demonstrate not only skill and dedication but also the resilience and commitment required to succeed. Vocational education and training plays a critical role in preparing people for these opportunities — supporting industry, strengthening communities, and building a capable workforce for the future.

The strength of our region lies in our people and the partnerships that support them. I thank our sponsors and partners for their continued support and congratulate all finalists. Your achievements reflect a strong foundation for continued success.

Rob Macmaster

Southern & South Western Sydney Regional Manager
Regional Training Services

Meet Our Master of Ceremonies

Helping us celebrate tonight is our fantastic Master of Ceremonies - Casey Fox. Casey is a passionate ambassador for Vocational Education and Training. Having undertaken her own VET journey, she embodies the transformative power of vocational education and is a proud representative of its impact.



Casey Fox

Casey Fox knows what it feels like to sit in the audience at an awards night, because three years ago she was there as a finalist. Since being named NSW Vocational Student of the Year in 2022, she has built a career dedicated to lifting up the people who shape our workforce, the trainers and assessors of the VET sector.

Casey is a qualified Trainer and Assessor delivering the Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, with a particular focus on supporting industry experts to step into the classroom and on building trainer capability in foundation skills, an area where the need has never been greater. She has delivered the TAE through TAFE NSW's Paid to Learn program and as TAE Course Coordinator at St George and Sutherland Community College, where she also serves as a Board Member.

Beyond the classroom, Casey is a VET Ambassador with the Educational Pathways Program, an Advisory Board Member for National Skills Week, and a regular voice for the sector at forums and parliamentary events. Tonight, she's right where she loves to be, in a room full of people who are changing their own corner of the world through vocational education.

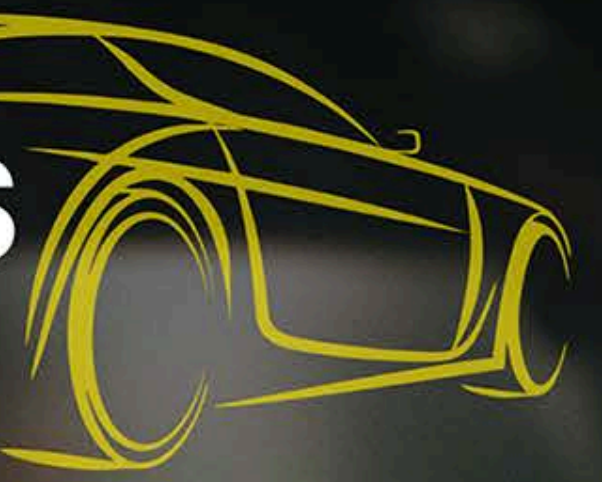
WHO WE ARE

Apprenticeships Are Us is a trusted Group Training Organisation supporting apprentices and employers across a wide range of industries. We provide employment, training coordination and ongoing support from commencement through to completion.

**400+ Apprentices
employed with
Apprenticeships Are Us
across 5 states**

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**BUILDING SKILLS.
CREATING CAREERS.
SUPPORTING APPRENTICES.**

WHAT WE DO

- Employ and support apprentices and trainees
- Connect apprentices with host employers
- Coordinate nationally recognised training
- Provide ongoing mentoring and support

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Apprenticeships Are Us (ARU) is a trusted Group Training Organisation supporting apprentices and employers across NSW. ARU provides end-to-end apprenticeship and traineeship services across a wide range of industries, including trades, engineering, business, early education and retail.

By employing apprentices directly and partnering with host employers, ARU ensures apprentices receive consistent support from commencement through to completion. This includes employment and payroll management, training coordination with approved Registered Training Organisations, and ongoing mentoring to help apprentices succeed in the workplace.

ARU works closely with employers to build strong, compliant apprenticeship pathways while helping apprentices develop practical skills, confidence and nationally recognised qualifications. With a strong focus on long-term outcomes, ARU supports school leavers, mature-age apprentices and career changers to build meaningful and sustainable careers. To learn more about apprenticeship opportunities or hosting an apprentice, visit Apprenticeships are us - www.apprus.com.au



TME Training is one of Australia's longest serving Registered Training Organizations and is proud to be delivering funded training in NSW. We have many courses on offer ranging from landscaping, horticulture, carpentry, concreting, business, children's services, aging and disability support.

We have designed our learning delivery to ensure we can reach all corners of NSW and beyond, keeping the experience of our students at the forefront of what we do. Our delivery model allows us to work with business of any size allowing us to scale to their needs.

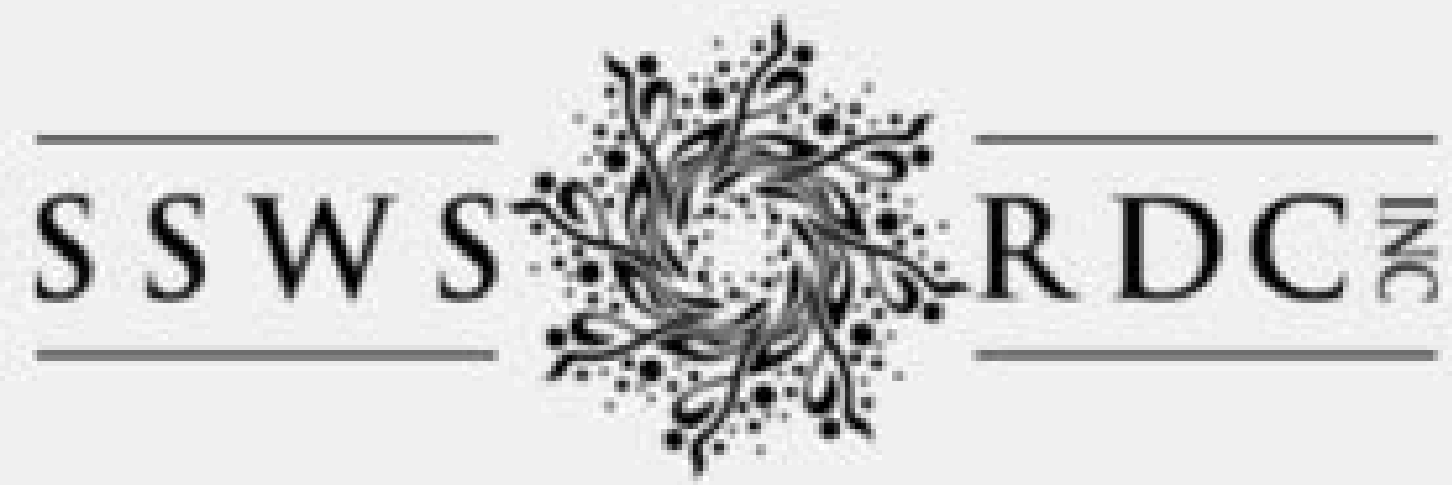
Our programs are designed in conjunction with industry ensuring we are future proofing your workplace with high quality staff. Our team of professional training, assessment and administration staff work together to support the student through their learning journey, nurturing them to completion.

We are your better way to do trade school.

Phone: 1800 863 863

Email: enquire@tme.edu.au

Web: tme.edu.au



Congratulations

TO ALL 2026 REGIONAL FINALISTS

WE WISH YOU THE BEST OF
LUCK



The **Southern and South Western Sydney Regional Development Committee Inc.** was established in 2018 and has proudly supported the Southern and South Western Sydney Regional Training Awards. Our focus includes areas within Canterbury-Bankstown, St George, Sutherland Shire, as well as the suburbs of Fairfield, Liverpool, Camden, Campbelltown, and Wollondilly Local Government Areas.

The committee consists of key stakeholders from the vocational education and training sector and industry, working together to enhance vocational education within our region. We have been committed to supporting regional Training Awards and recognise the value of celebrating local talent.

Since inception, the committee has assisted high achievers by providing financial support and networking opportunities. This has enabled many individuals to continue their vocational journey and advance in their careers. Several award recipients have gone on to become leaders within their industries, demonstrating the lasting impact of our collective efforts in nurturing the next generation of skilled professionals.



Invest in an apprentice and help close the gaps on industry labour & skills shortages.

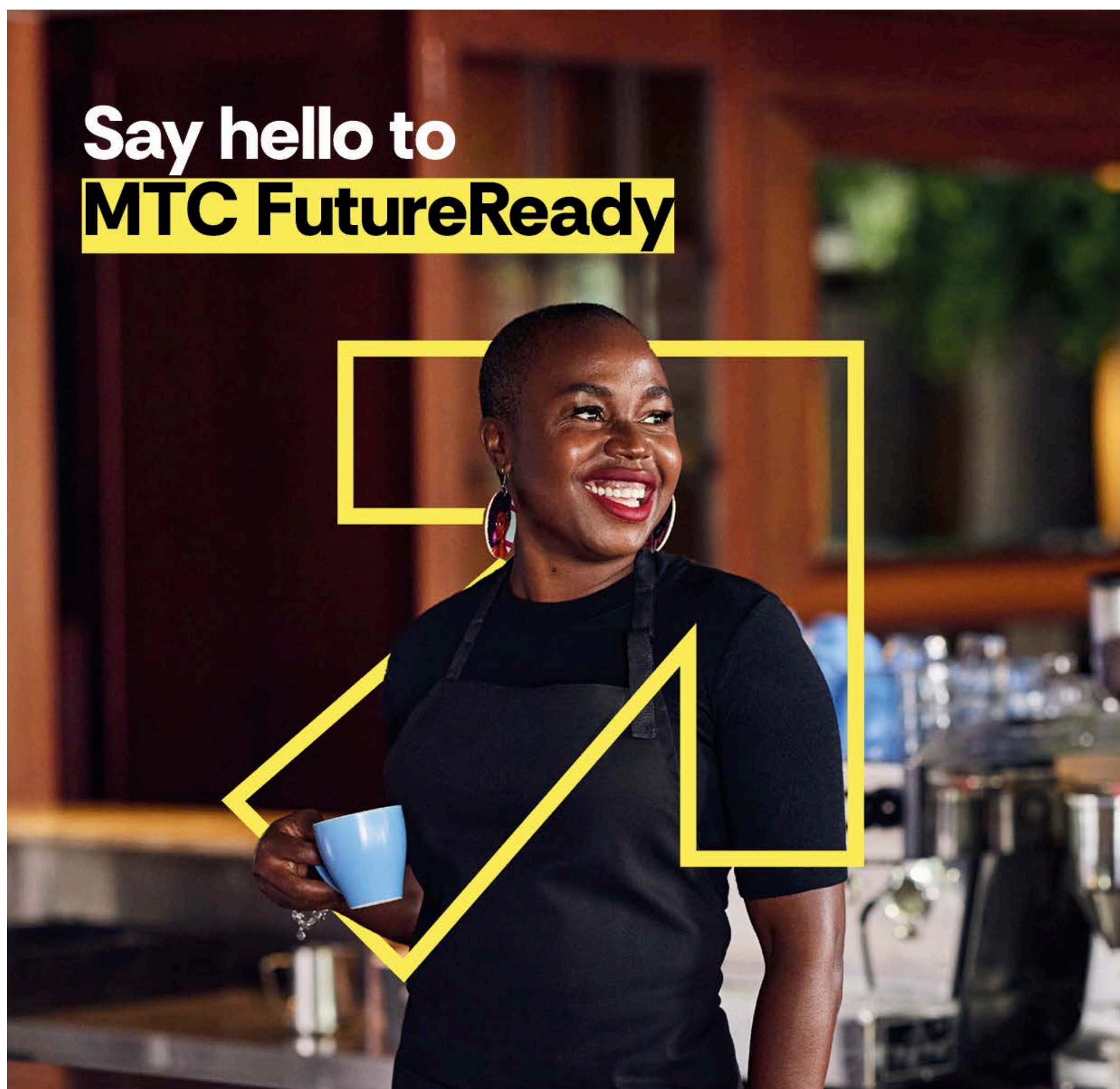
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Vocational Student of the Year Finalist

Sophia Lau

Qualification

Certificate III in Horse Breeding

Training Provider

TAFE NSW

Employer

Heriot Park Stud



Sophia Lau has completed a Certificate III in Horse Breeding and is working within a professional stud environment, building a career in a specialised and highly skilled industry. Starting with limited experience, Sophia has developed strong practical knowledge and confidence through hands-on training and real-world application.

Through her training, Sophia has gained skills in mare and foal care, horse handling, nutrition and identifying health issues, applying these daily in a working breeding facility. She is recognised for her reliability, strong work ethic and commitment to animal welfare, contributing to high standards of care within the industry.

Overcoming challenges through online learning and balancing work commitments, Sophia has shown resilience and determination to succeed. She is passionate about promoting the horse breeding industry and creating greater awareness of career opportunities. Sophia aspires to establish her own stud and support the growth of the industry.

Vocational Student of the Year Finalist

Ierome Mauafu



Qualification

Certificate III in Process Manufacturing

Training Provider

BSI Learning

Employer

Supaloc Steel Building Systems

Ierome Mauafu has completed a Certificate III in Process Manufacturing while working with Supaloc Steel Building Systems, progressing from entry-level to Production Supervisor. His training has strengthened his technical expertise, leadership skills and commitment to safety and quality within a high-performing manufacturing environment.

Through applying his learning, Ierome has driven significant efficiency improvements, contributing to process enhancements and achieving a 20% productivity increase through optimising new manufacturing systems. His work has influenced broader organisational investment and enhanced operational performance across multiple sites.

Ierome is highly regarded for his leadership, mentoring and ability to build strong, collaborative teams. He is passionate about supporting others to develop skills, improve workplace culture and take pride in their work. Ierome is committed to promoting vocational education within industry and continuing to create opportunities for growth and innovation in manufacturing.



Vocational Student of the Year Finalist

Madeline Twemlow

Qualification

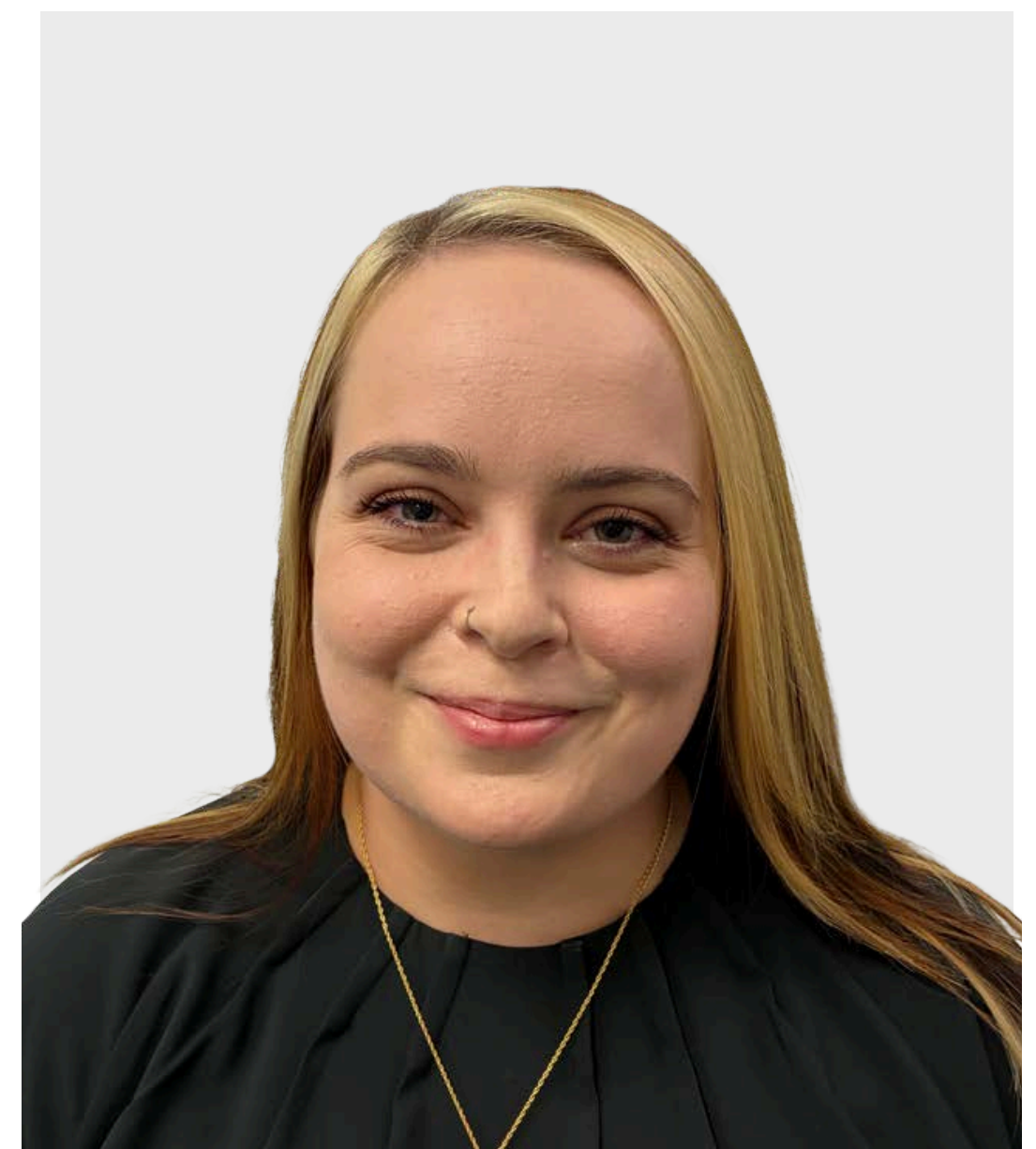
Diploma of Project Management

Training Provider

BSI Learning

Employer

H+K International



Madeline Twemlow has completed a Diploma of Project Management while working with H+K International, where she plays a key role in delivering large-scale projects across new store developments and business initiatives.

Her training has strengthened her ability to manage projects end-to-end, enhancing skills in planning, stakeholder engagement, risk management and governance. By applying her learning directly to live projects, Madeline has improved documentation processes, streamlined workflows and supported implementing new project management systems, contributing to greater team efficiency.

Madeline is highly regarded for her professionalism, adaptability and collaborative approach. She actively supports colleagues, shares knowledge and fosters continuous learning within her team. Balancing professional responsibilities with personal commitments, she has demonstrated resilience, organisation and strong leadership.

Madeline is committed to further developing her project management career and driving positive outcomes within her organisation and industry.

VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year Finalist

Hayley Arenelli



Field of Study

Hospitality

Employer

Catholic Education Diocese of Wollongong

Hayley Arenelli is a VET Hospitality trainer and VET Coordinator at John Therry Catholic College, Rosemeadow. With extensive industry experience, she delivers high-quality vocational education that equips students for real-world employment and success in the hospitality industry.

Hayley is recognised for her leadership in developing innovative and consistent VET delivery practices. She has implemented cross-curricular programs integrating hospitality, business and construction, creating authentic, industry-relevant learning experiences. Her focus on quality assurance, including strong assessment practices that ensure validity and consistency across classes, supports high standards of training and student achievement.

A passionate advocate for VET, Hayley actively promotes student success and vocational pathways within the broader community. She is highly regarded for engaging diverse learners, building confidence and equipping students with the practical skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the workplace.



VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year Finalist

James Kotselas

Field of Study

Baking

Employer

Sydney Catholic Schools



James Kotselas is a VET Baking trainer at Southern Cross Catholic College, bringing over 20 years of industry experience as a chef, baker and business owner into the classroom. His transition from industry to education is driven by a passion to address skills shortages and prepare students for real-world employment.

James delivers innovative, industry-aligned programs that combine practical learning with authentic workplace experiences, ensuring students develop strong technical skills, confidence and professionalism. His impact is reflected in increased enrolments, strong student engagement and successful transitions into employment and apprenticeships, including rare patisserie pathways.

He is highly regarded for building strong relationships with students, motivating them to succeed and reshaping perceptions of the hospitality industry. Committed to continuous improvement, James actively engages with industry and professional learning to keep his teaching current, relevant and future-focused.

VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year Finalist

Jonny Menck



Field of Study

Construction

Employer

Independent Schools NSW

Jonny Menck is a VET Construction teacher at St Patrick's College, Strathfield, with diverse professional background spanning pharmacy, business ownership and public health research. He brings this breadth of experience into the classroom, creating engaging and practical learning environments that prepare students for real-world industry expectations.

Jonny is recognised for his innovative teaching approach, implementing blended learning strategies such as instructional videos, QR-coded resources and structured multimodal delivery to support diverse learners. His focus on practical competency, safety and confidence has led to improved student engagement, stronger assessment outcomes and positive feedback from industry partners.

Highly regarded for his collaborative approach, Jonny mentors colleagues and contributes to continuous improvement across the VET faculty. Passionate about developing skills and character, he is committed to shaping capable, work-ready students and fostering a culture of lifelong learning.



VET in Schools Student of the Year Finalist

Yousef Al Masri

Qualification

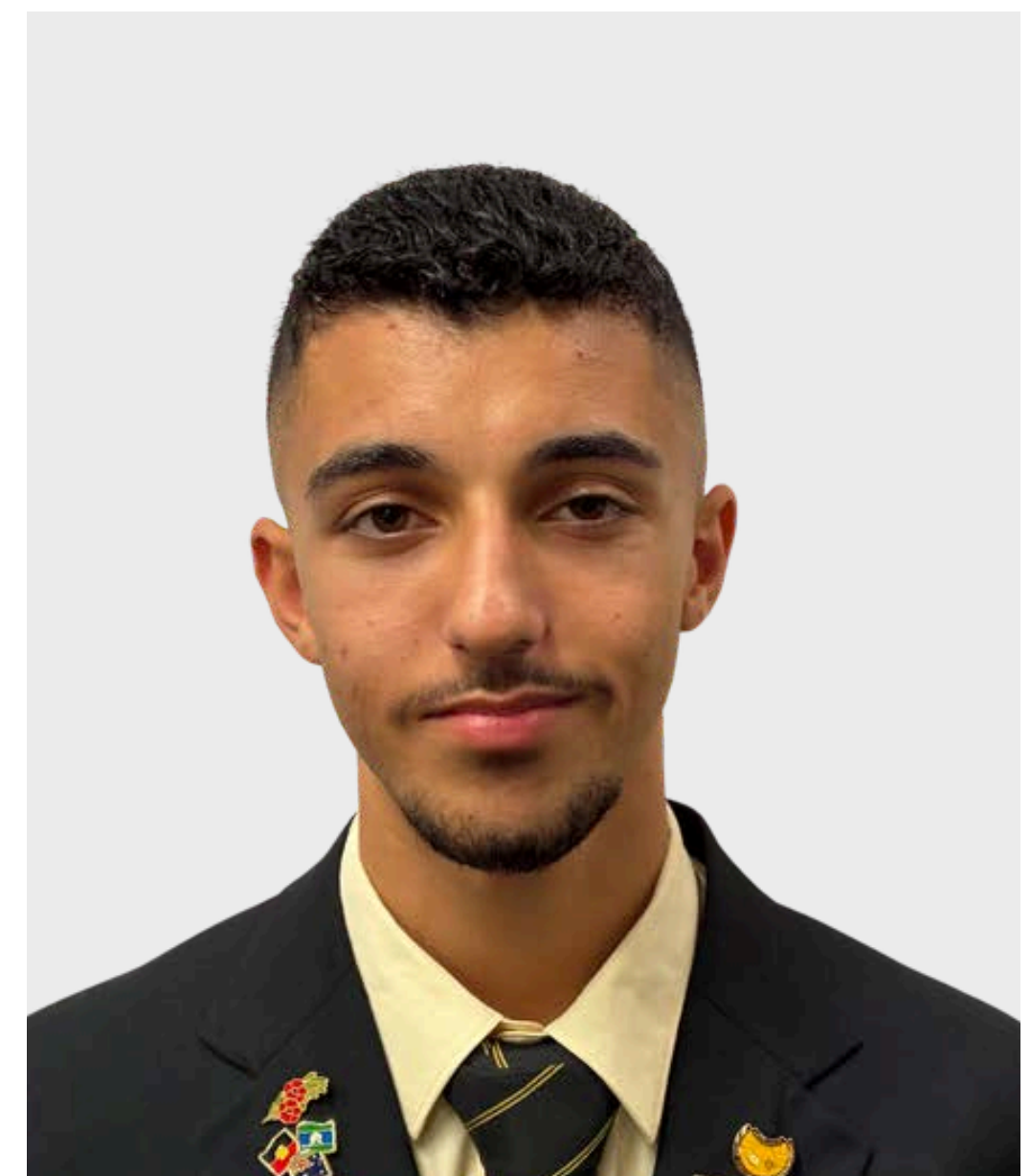
Certificate III in Health Services Assistance

Training Provider

NSW Health RTO

School

Miller Technology High School



Yousef Al Masri is completing a Certificate III in Health Services Assistance, undertaking practical placement at Liverpool Hospital. As School Captain, he combines strong academic performance with a deep commitment to leadership, advocacy and community engagement.

Inspired by his lived experience in a disadvantaged community, Yousef is passionate about addressing health inequities and improving access to care. His training has given him hands-on experience in clinical settings, strengthening his skills in patient care, communication and teamwork within multidisciplinary settings.

Yousef is highly regarded for his professionalism, emotional intelligence and ability to connect with people from diverse backgrounds. He actively promotes vocational pathways within his school, supporting students to explore alternative career options and challenging misconceptions about VET.

With aspirations to pursue a career in dentistry, Yousef is committed to creating meaningful change in healthcare and advocating for more accessible services for his community.

VET in Schools Student of the Year Finalist

Eva Diamadis



Qualification

Certificate II in Cookery

Training Provider

Independent Schools NSW

Employer

Collective Cafe

School

Danebank Anglican School for Girls

Eva Diamadis is completing a Certificate II in Cookery and has developed strong practical skills through both her studies and industry experience. Her passion for hospitality began in Food Technology and has grown through hands-on learning and real-world application.

During her work placements, Eva gained valuable experience in food preparation, customer service and workplace operations, leading to ongoing employment at a local café. She further expanded her skills with a placement at Sea World Resort Hotel School, where she experienced large-scale hospitality operations and developed independence and confidence.

Eva is recognised for strong communication, teamwork and adaptability, consistently demonstrating professionalism in fast-paced environments. She is a proactive and reliable team member who thrives on collaboration and delivering positive customer experiences. Eva is committed to continuing her pathway in hospitality and building a successful career in the industry.



VET in Schools Student of the Year Finalist

Isaac Nassif

Qualification

Certificate II in Automotive Vocational
Preparation

Training Provider

Sydney Catholic Schools

School

Southern Cross Catholic College



Isaac Nassif is completing a Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation and has demonstrated exceptional growth through his VET in Schools pathway. Discovering a passion for hands-on learning, Isaac has developed strong technical skills and a deep understanding of mechanical systems in a workshop environment.

His training has transformed his engagement with education, building his confidence, discipline and focus. Isaac is recognised for his problem-solving abilities, safe work practices and positive contributions to team environments, including leadership roles during practical assessments.

Beyond the workshop, Isaac supports peers by encouraging them to explore vocational pathways and helping them find direction. His involvement in Defence Force Cadets has further strengthened his resilience, responsibility and sense of purpose.

Passionate about his future in the automotive industry, Isaac is a strong example of how vocational education creates meaningful opportunities and future career success.

School-based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year Finalist

Arnika De Marcellis



Qualification

Certificate III in Health Services Assistance

Training Provider

TAFE NSW

Employer

St George Private Hospital

School

Marist Catholic College Penshurst

Arnika De Marcellis is completing a Certificate III in Health Services Assistance through a School-based Traineeship at St George Private Hospital. Driven by a lifelong passion for caring for others, she is building a strong foundation in healthcare and aspires to a future career in nursing.

Through her role, Arnika has gained hands-on experience across oncology and surgical wards, supporting patients with daily care, comfort and dignity during some of their most vulnerable moments. She is recognised for her compassion, emotional maturity and ability to connect with patients and their families, fostering trust and reassurance.

Balancing school, TAFE and a demanding hospital environment, Arnika has developed strong time management, resilience and communication skills. She is highly regarded by peers and supervisors for her positive attitude, teamwork and willingness to support others. Arnika is committed to making a meaningful difference and contributing to a compassionate healthcare system.



School-based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year Finalist

Lara Duffy

Qualification

Certificate III in Health Services Assistance

Training Provider

TAFE NSW

Employer

Kareena Private Hospital

School

St Aloysius College Cronulla



Lara Duffy is completing a Certificate III in Health Services Assistance as part of her School-based Traineeship at Kareena Private Hospital. Inspired by personal experiences, Lara discovered a strong passion for nursing and has developed the skills and confidence to thrive in a clinical environment.

Working primarily in a rehabilitation ward, Lara supports patients with daily care, mobility and observations, while collaborating closely with nurses and allied health professionals. She is recognised for her calm, reassuring approach, especially when supporting patients experiencing anxiety or confusion, and for building trust through clear and compassionate communication.

Balancing her HSC, TAFE studies and hospital shifts, Lara has demonstrated strong resilience, organisation and dedication. She is highly regarded for her reliability, initiative and teamwork. Lara is committed to continuing her nursing pathway, aspiring to work in emergency or intensive care environments.

School-based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year Finalist

Jayla Te Atua



Qualification

Certificate III in Sports Coaching

Training Provider

NSW Department of Education

Employer

Creating Chances

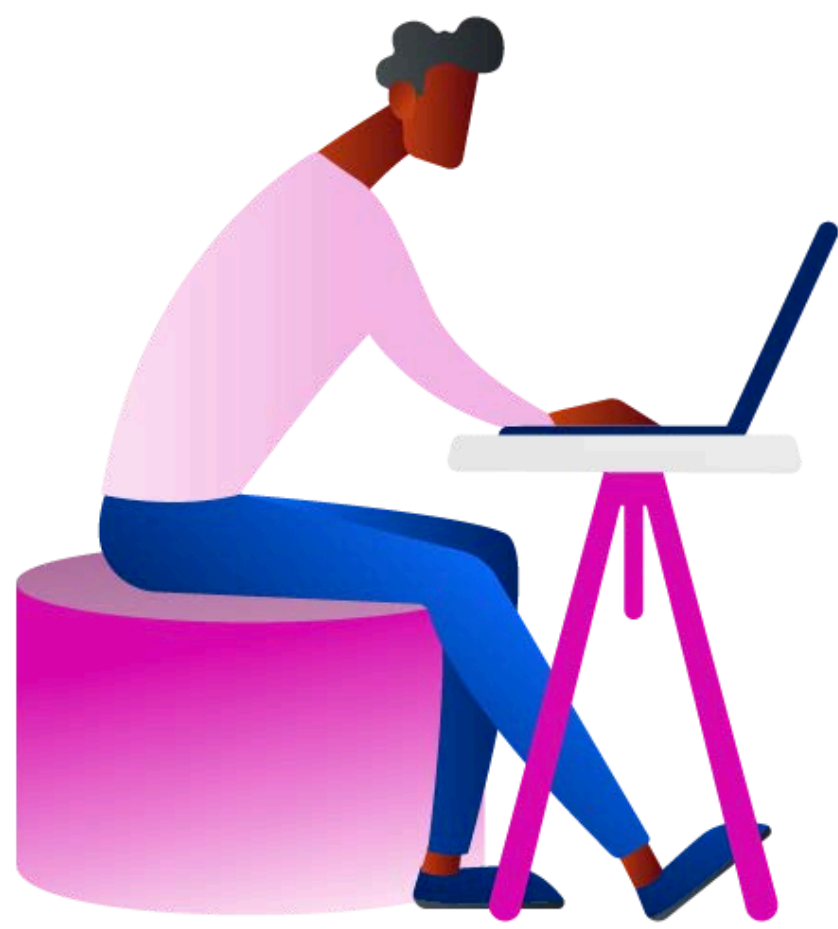
School

Doonside Technology High School

Jayla Te Atua is completing a Certificate III in Sport Coaching through her school-based traineeship with Creating Chances. With a strong passion for sport and community, Jayla uses coaching as a platform to empower young people and build confidence, connection and life skills.

Through her role, Jayla has delivered programs to students aged 8–18 across various schools and settings, including working with young people with disability. She is known for her ability to connect with participants, creating inclusive and engaging environments where students feel supported and motivated.

Jayla has developed strong leadership, communication and teamwork skills, and is an active member of the North Sydney Bears leadership group. Her involvement in initiatives such as the Pacific Waves program reflects her commitment to cultural connection and positive community impact. Jayla is passionate about continuing her pathway in sport and using her skills to inspire others.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Finalist

Jessica Herbert

Qualification

Certificate III in Early Childhood Education
and Care

Training Provider

Selmar Institute of Education

Employer

Futuro Early Learning



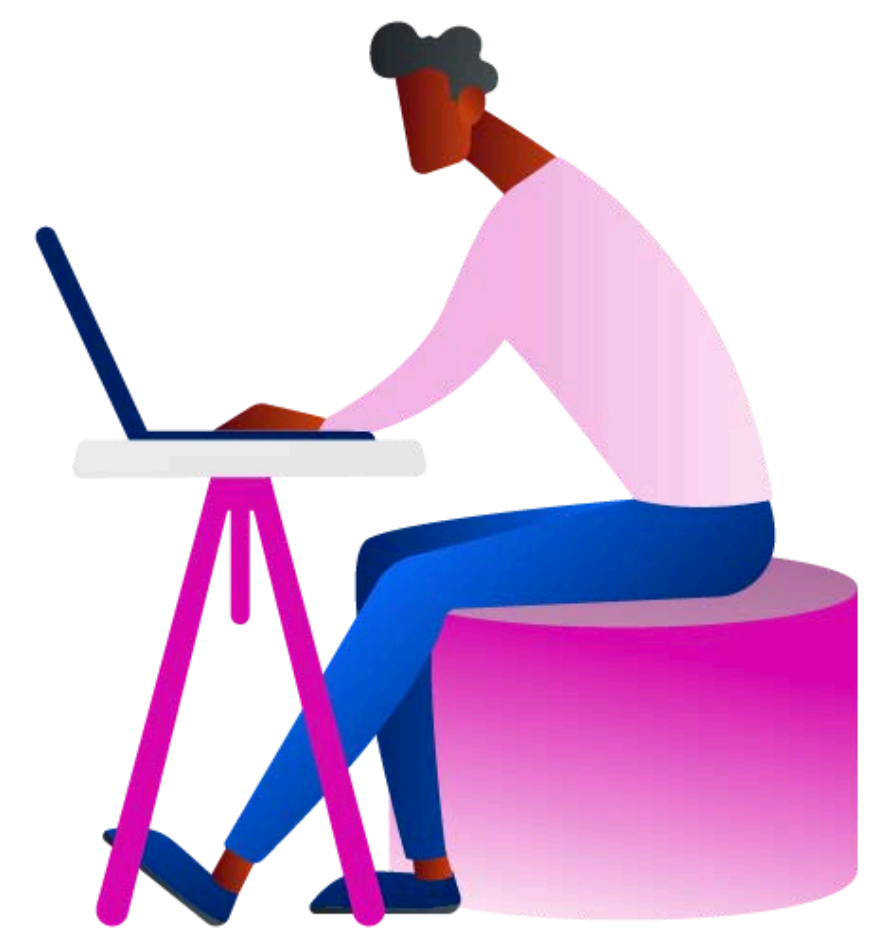
Jessica Herbert has completed a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care and is continuing her studies into the Diploma. She is a dedicated educator, passionate about supporting children's development in their early years and fostering positive learning environment.

As a working mother of three, Jessica brings empathy, patience and strong communication skills to her role. She has developed confidence in planning learning experiences, supporting children with additional needs, and building respectful relationships with families and colleagues. Her training has strengthened her teamwork, communication and ability to contribute positively within room-based environments.

Jessica is proud to embed her Aboriginal culture into her work, supporting children to engage in cultural practices and creating a safe, inclusive space. She is passionate about advocacy and early intervention and committed to making a meaningful difference in the lives of children and families.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Finalist

J'Leigha Spiteri



Qualification

Certificate III in School Based Education Support

Training Provider

TAFE NSW

Employer

NSW Department of Education

Host Employer

Macquarie Fields Public School

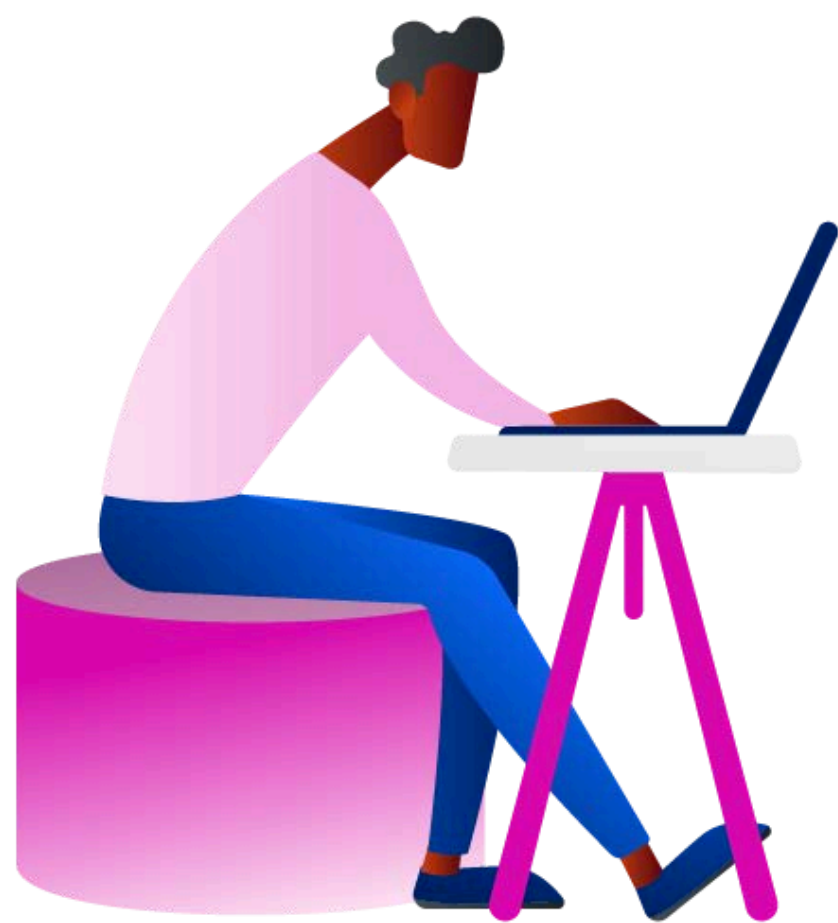
School

Leumeah High School

J'Leigha Spiteri is completing a Certificate III in School Based Education Support and is passionate about supporting young people, particularly Aboriginal students and those with additional needs. Her pathway was shaped by her own experiences at school, where she faced challenges and disengagement, and she is now driven to help others feel heard, supported, and understood.

Through her school-based traineeship, J'Leigha has worked closely with students with disabilities, supporting their learning, emotional regulation and confidence. She has also demonstrated leadership by running Aboriginal dance and cultural groups, supporting Junior AECG activities, and helping students connect to culture and community.

J'Leigha is known for her kindness, initiative and ability to build strong relationships with students and staff. She is committed to advocating for young people and believes every student can find their pathway and succeed with the right support.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Finalist

Jade Stewart

Qualification

Certificate III in Carpentry

Training Provider

TAFE NSW

Employer

Dotbuild Constructions



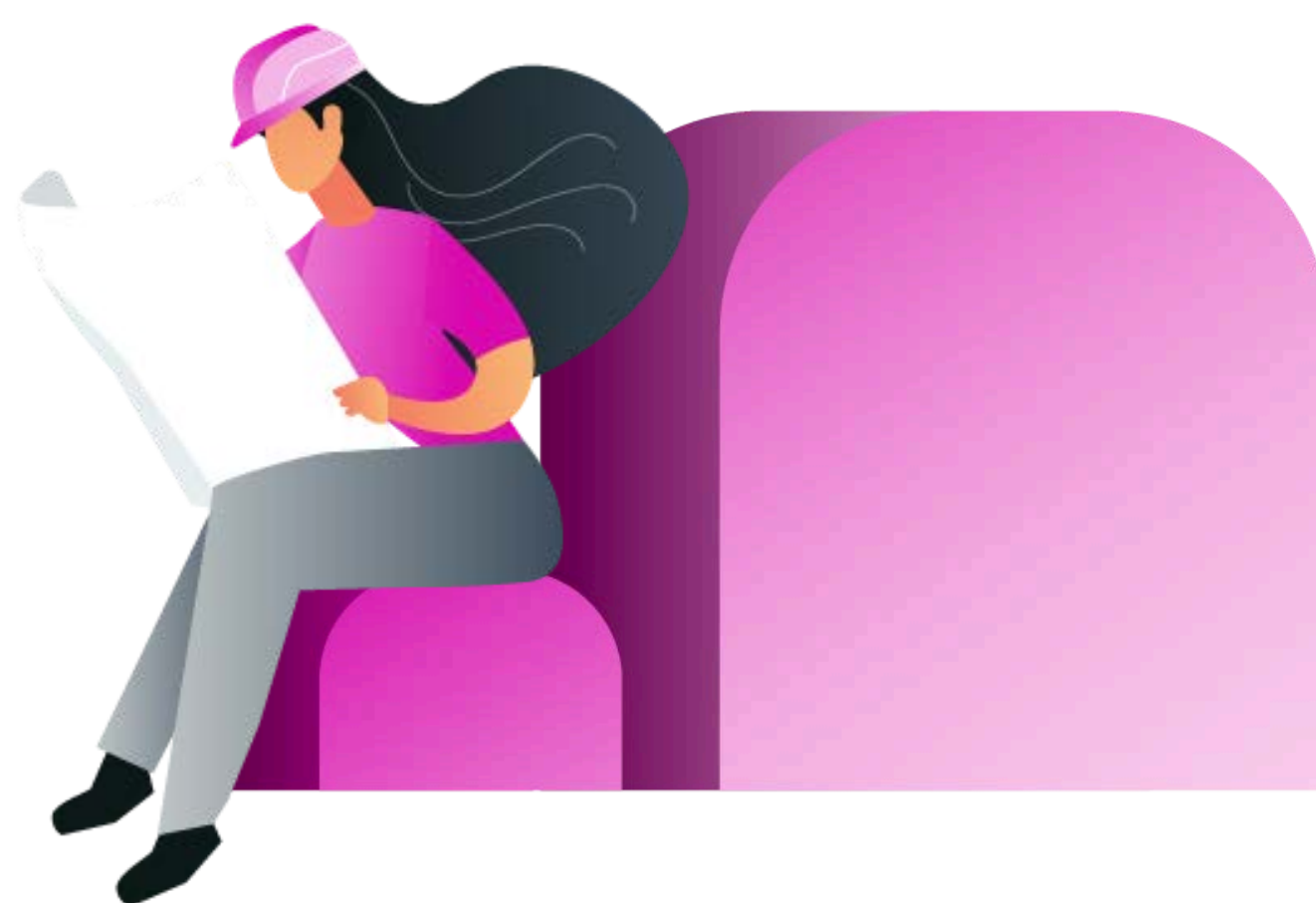
Jade Smith has completed a Certificate III in Carpentry and is currently working with Dotbuild Constructions, gaining hands-on experience across various construction projects, including work within schools. She discovered her passion for carpentry during a work experience placement and has grown steadily in confidence and skill since entering the industry.

Jade takes pride in her work, demonstrates a strong work ethic, and is committed to learning and improving each day. Working in a male-dominated trade has helped her develop resilience and confidence, and she continues to approach her work with a positive attitude.

Outside of work, Jade is involved in her local football club and supports community activities. She encourages others to try new opportunities, believing that stepping outside your comfort zone can help people find a pathway that truly suits them

Trainee of the Year Finalist

Harlow Gornall



Qualification

Certificate III in Business

Training Provider

Zeal Futures Learning

Employer

Zeal Futures

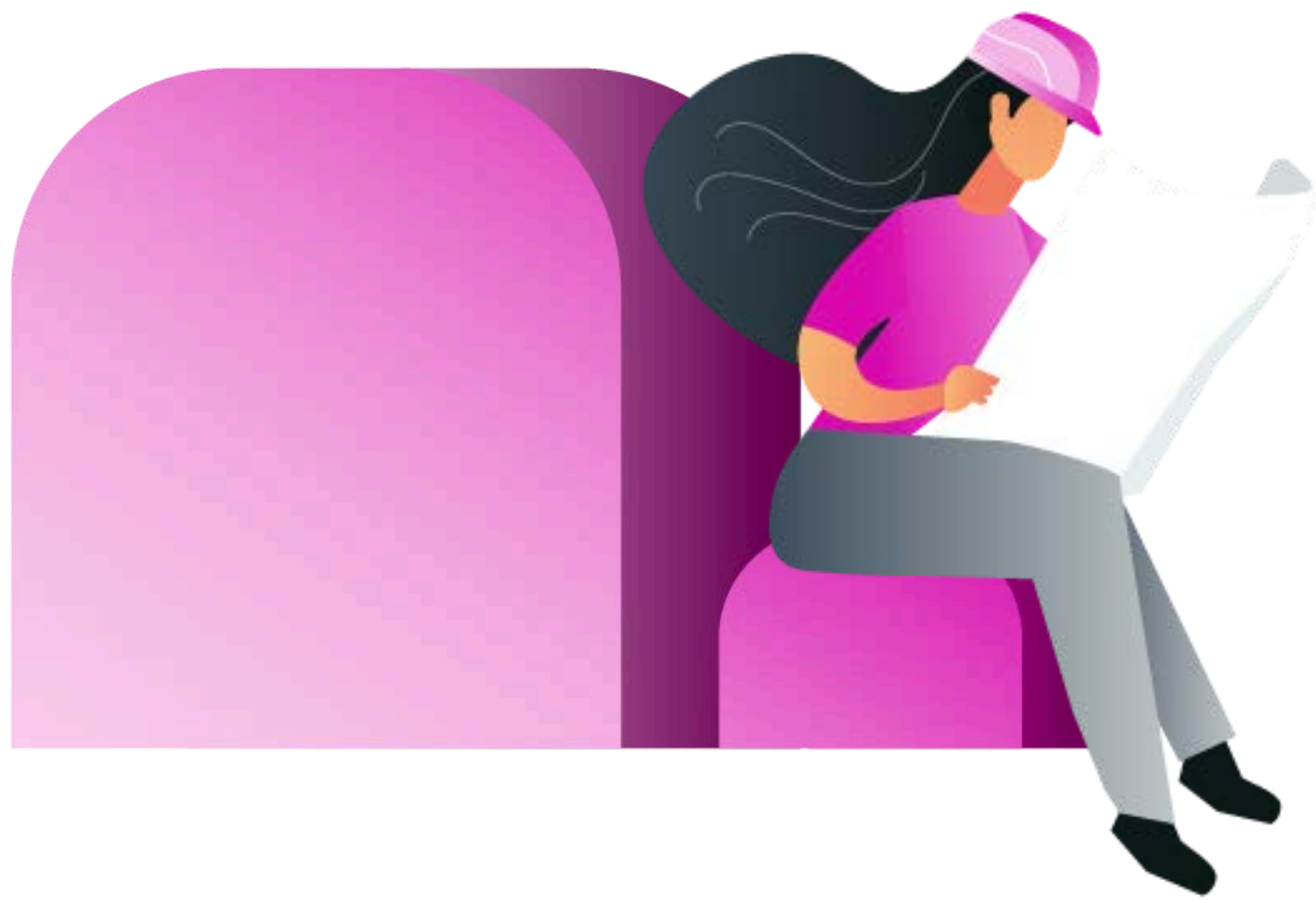
Host Employer

Camden Council

Harlow Gornall has completed a Certificate III in Business with Zeal Futures, hosted by Camden Council, choosing a traineeship pathway to gain practical experience and start her career early. Transitioning into full-time employment at a young age, Harlow quickly developed the confidence, professionalism and skills required to thrive in a local government environment.

Through her role, Harlow has contributed to major council initiatives, including the Camden Careers and Jobs Expo, International Women's Day Gala and community campaigns. She played a key role in expanding the Careers Expo, significantly increasing attendance and strengthening opportunities for young people to explore employment pathways.

Harlow is recognised for her strong communication, organisation and stakeholder engagement skills, as well as her ability to take initiative and manage responsibilities across diverse projects. Highly regarded by her colleagues, she is a passionate advocate for vocational education and is committed to continuing her career in business and local government.



Trainee of the Year Finalist

Zahra Hammoud

Qualification

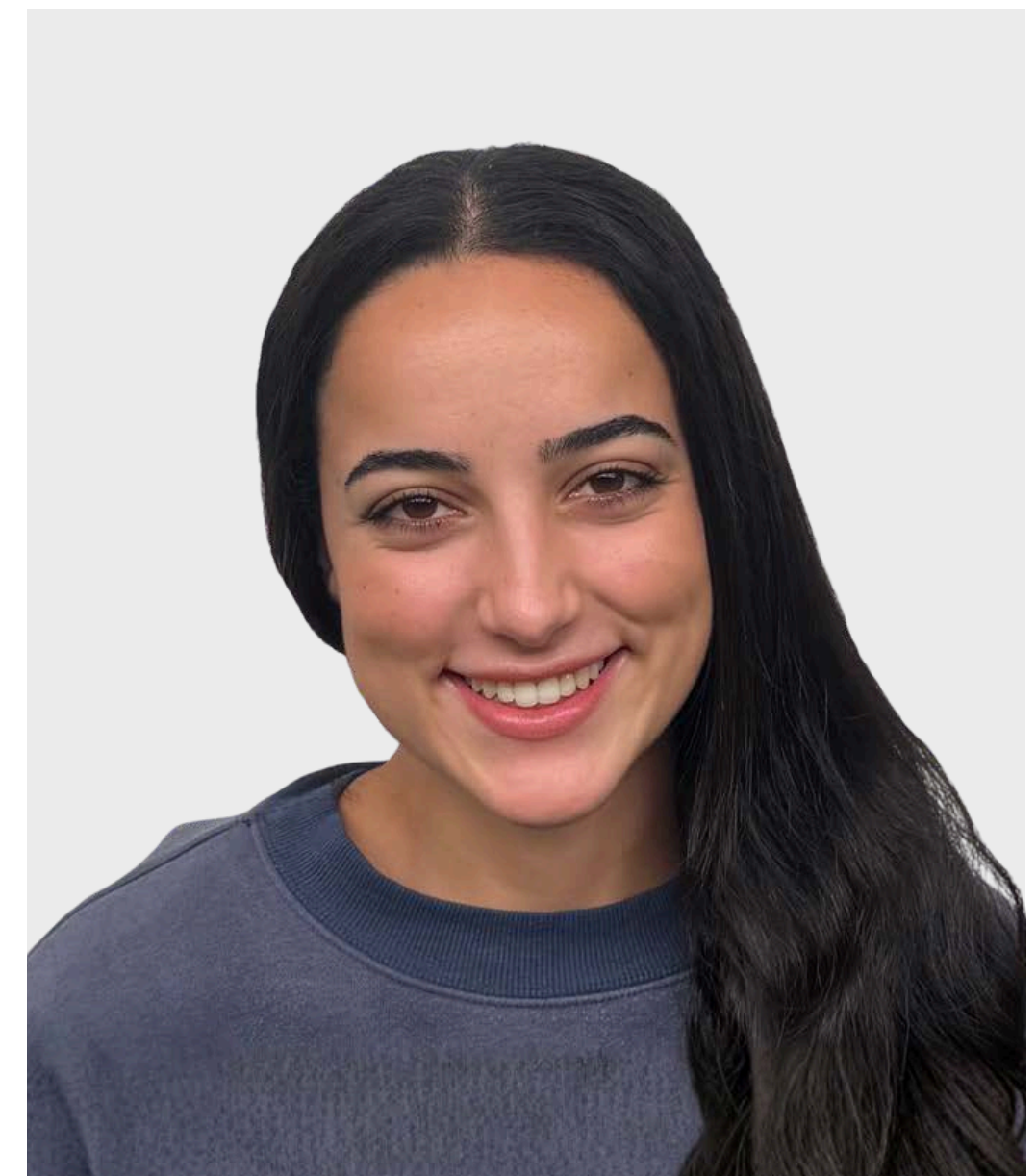
Certificate III in Early Childhood Education
and Care

Training Provider

TAFE NSW

Employer

Liverpool City Council



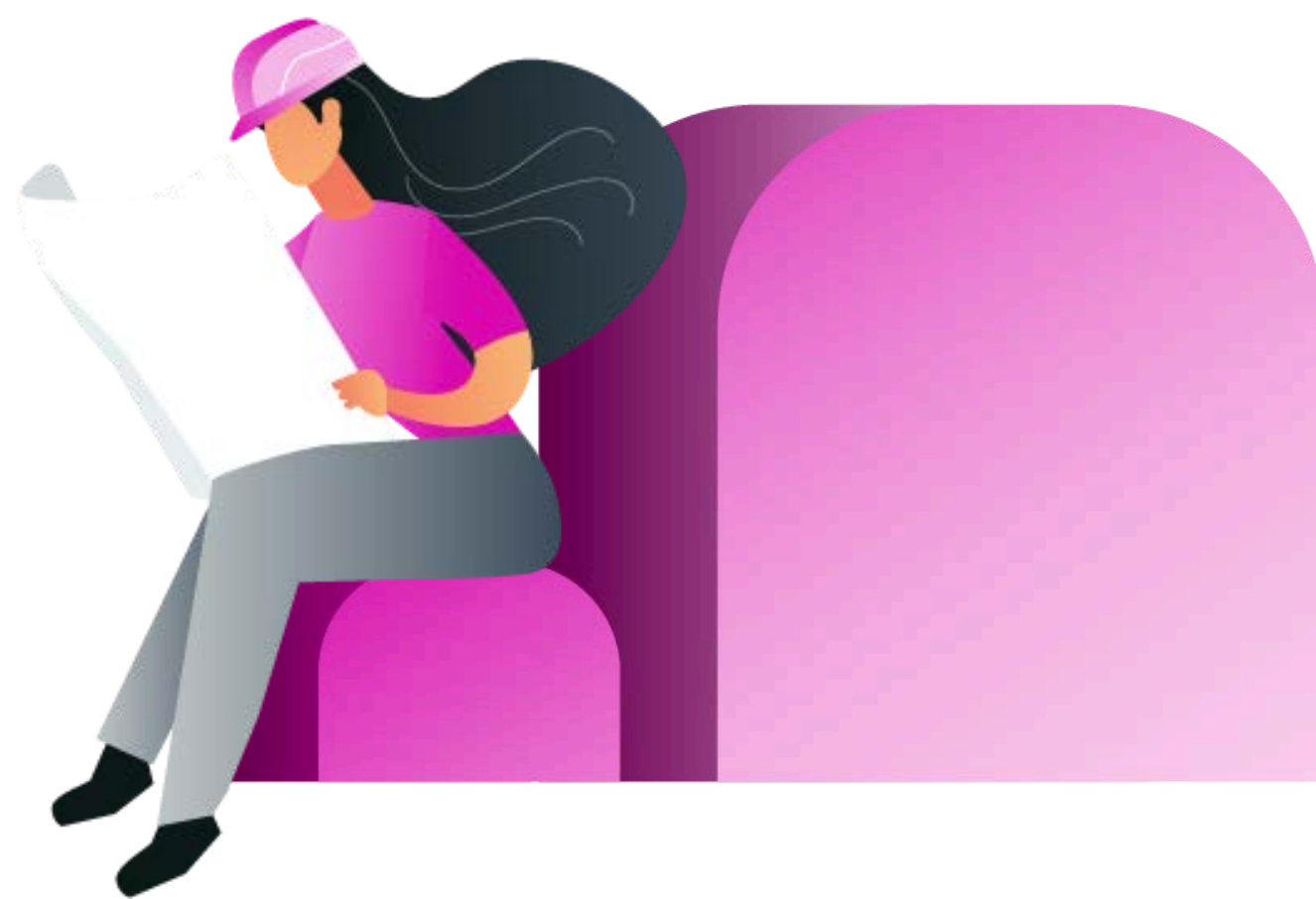
Zahra Hammoud has completed a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care and works in a long day care setting supporting children aged 3–5 years. Through her traineeship, Zahra has developed strong practical skills and confidence, growing into a capable and trusted educator.

She demonstrates a strong understanding of the Early Years Learning Framework, contributing to observations, documentation and planning meaningful learning experiences that support children’s development. Zahra is recognised for her ability to build positive relationships with children, families and colleagues, supporting smooth transitions and creating a safe, inclusive environment.

Balancing multiple work commitments alongside her studies, Zahra has shown resilience, adaptability and strong time management. She actively supports her team by mentoring new trainees and contributing to collaborative planning and communication practices. Zahra is passionate about early childhood education and is committed to continuing her studies to become an Early Childhood Teacher.

Trainee of the Year Finalist

Vae Junior Nikoro



Qualification

Certificate IV in Information Technology

Training Provider

Australian College of Commerce &
Management

Employer

My Gateway

Host Employer

Camden Council

Vae Junior Nikoro has completed a Certificate IV in Information Technology through My Gateway, hosted by Camden Council. Beginning his traineeship with minimal prior IT experience, Junior quickly established himself as a capable and reliable member of the IT team.

He has developed strong technical and problem-solving skills, supporting complex IT systems, troubleshooting issues and delivering audio-visual solutions for high-profile meetings and public events. Junior has independently managed IT support for Council briefings, executive sessions and major stakeholder events, consistently delivering high-quality outcomes under pressure.

Throughout his traineeship, Junior balanced full-time work with study, applying his learning directly in the workplace and contributing to major technology upgrades and system improvements. His initiative, professionalism and strong work ethic have earned the trust of colleagues and stakeholders.

Now continuing his career in IT, Junior proudly promotes vocational pathways, encouraging others with his message: “Give it a go!”



Apprentice of the Year Finalist

Jake McDermott

Qualification

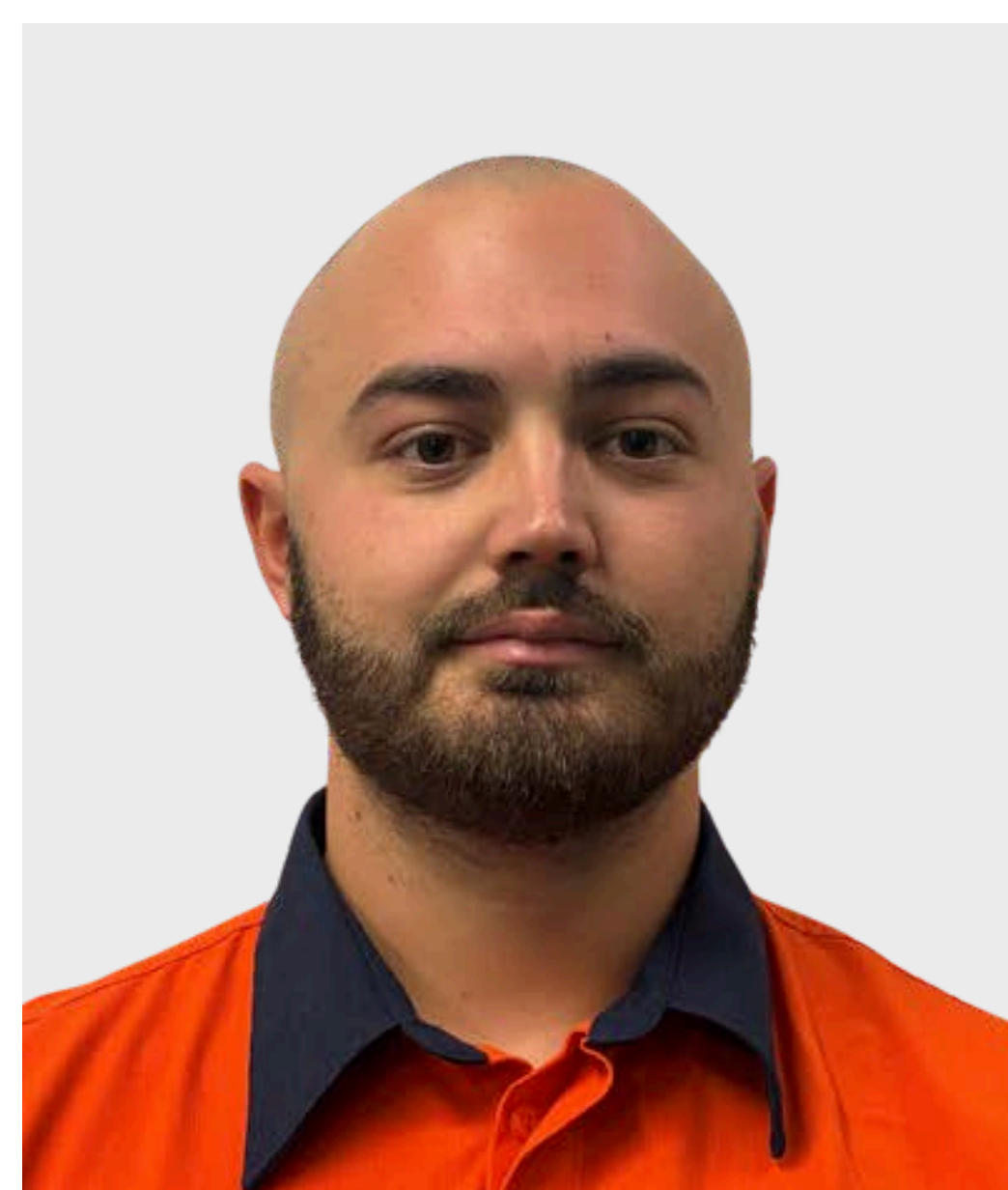
Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician

Training Provider

TAFE NSW

Employer

Endeavour Energy



Jake McDermott has completed a Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician with Endeavour Energy. His apprenticeship led him to a Protection and Control Technologist role, a significant achievement early in his career.

He has gained experience in large construction projects, substations and emerging energy technologies. Jake enjoys problem-solving and values learning from experienced colleagues. With strong technical knowledge, a positive attitude and a willingness to learn, he continuously builds his skills and adapts to new technologies in this evolving industry.

Jake is well-known for his excellent communication skills and easily builds rapport with individuals at every level. He has actively represented his organisation at career events and shares his experience to inspire others to explore vocational pathways. Jake takes pride in his work, his team, and contributing to powering communities.

Apprentice of the Year Finalist

Mckenzie McIntosh



Qualification

Certificate III in Engineering - Mechanical
Trade

Training Provider

TAFE NSW

Employer

Zeal Futures

Host Employer

GM3

Mckenzie McIntosh has completed a Certificate III in Engineering Mechanical and has gained extensive experience working across underground and surface mining operations. As a dual trade apprentice, she has built strong technical skills in mechanical maintenance, shutdowns and large-scale equipment work, while maintaining a strong focus on safety and efficiency.

Throughout her apprenticeship, Mckenzie has worked across multiple departments, including longwall, development, gas drainage and coal clearance, gaining exposure to a wide range of tasks and environments. She has developed strong communication and teamwork skills, collaborating closely with tradespeople, operators and coordinators to ensure work is completed effectively.

Mckenzie is highly regarded for her work ethic, reliability and willingness to learn. She has also mentored other apprentices and taken on additional responsibilities throughout her training. Passionate about the industry, she is committed to continuing her development and building a long-term career in mining.



Apprentice of the Year Finalist

Hamish McMorran

Qualification

Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician

Training Provider

TAFE NSW

Employer

My Gateway

Host Employer

Stowe Australia Pty Ltd



Hamish McMorran completed a Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician and has developed strong technical skills through a combination of formal training and hands-on workplace experience. His pathway into the trade began with TVET studies at school, sparking his interest in becoming an electrician.

Throughout his apprenticeship, Hamish has gained confidence, discipline and a strong work ethic. He has experience in a range of electrical tasks, including installation, maintenance and fault finding, all while maintaining a focus on safety and quality. He approaches his work with care, welcomes feedback, and is committed to continuous skill improvement.

Hamish values teamwork and communication, recognising their role in a safe and efficient work environment. He mentors first-year apprentices and takes pride in supporting others entering the trade. Outside work, he enjoys being active in his local community and values the balance it brings.

Thank You



On behalf of the Southern & South Western 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 Southern & South Western Sydney Training Awards a success.

