

NSW Training Awards 2026

NSW VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Nominations close 2 February 2026



NSW VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year Award recognises innovation and excellence by a teacher or trainer providing nationally recognised training to students at a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) or in partnership with an RTO.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for this award you must:

- be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia;
- be a qualified (as determined by the Standards for Registered Training Organisations 2015;) teacher or trainer employed (or regularly contracted) by an RTO;
- have delivered training in New South Wales from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025 which will lead/has led to nationally recognised qualifications or Statements of Attainment under the Australian Qualifications Framework national training system (excludes online delivery, unless a NSW resident; and
- have an appropriate Endorser specified. Your Endorser must provide their endorsement comments to your submitted nomination in order for it to be eligible.

Individuals who have won at a regional or state level for VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year may nominate again provided there is a grace period of 1 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:

- Your Employer (RTO)
- A colleague
- Your principal
- A student
- A representative from a relevant industry group

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 location where you deliver the majority of your training in NSW.

*Photo: Penny Mackay,
2025 NSW VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year*



Section A: Overview (300 word limit)

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

Note: This information will not be considered or used for judging purposes, but it might be used to create your bio 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, to the development of your skills and your 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: Excellence and initiatives (600 word limit)

Consider:

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

Criterion 2: Learner needs and focus (600 word limit)

Consider:

- How do you support the diverse needs of your learners and ensure they continue to be engaged in their learning journey?

- What evidence is there of the effectiveness of the design and delivery methodologies of your training program?
- Provide examples where you have initiated a new idea/activity etc, in response to feedback?
- Provide examples of the learner/industry/community feedback mechanisms you use?

Criterion 3: Commitment to VET teaching and learning (600 word limit)

Consider:

- How do you maintain and grow your own skills and knowledge?
- How do you support others to develop their skills and knowledge?
- Provide examples of your engagement with VET professionals?

Criterion 4: Links with industry and community (600 word limit)

Consider:

- How are active links with industry and the community implemented in your practice?
- What are the major issues confronting the industry(s) your program engages with?
- How can VET help address these issues?
- What level of engagement do you have with industry and professional bodies?
- How do you promote VET in the industry and the community?

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.**

Consider including:

- » **Resume**
A copy of your resume
- » **Awards and prizes**
Copies of any certificates or prizes you may have received (since leaving secondary school) such as a sporting award, community service award or special recognition by your employer.
- » **A copy of your current Training & Assessment qualification is an essential attachment for all nominees**
- » **Reference or letter of support**
A reference or letter of support from either your employer, colleague or student/s.
- » **Workplace/training action photos**
Action photos of you in your workplace or in training.