

# NSW Training Awards 2026

## NSW VET in Schools Student of the Year

### Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Nominations close 2 February 2026



The NSW VET in Schools Student of the Year Award is presented to a Year 11 or 12 student undertaking accredited vocational education and training as part of their HSC studies.

## Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for this award you must:

- be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia and undertaking training in New South Wales;
- be undertaking accredited vocational education and training as part of your HSC studies;
- be enrolled at school throughout 2026;
- not be completing your qualification as part of a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship; 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 the state level 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:

- Career Adviser, Principal, Teacher from your school
- Representative from your RTO
- Employer or host employer
- Group Training Organisation (GTO)

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 your school's postcode.

Photo: Darby Hubber,  
2025 NSW VET in Schools  
Student of the Year



## Section A: Overview (300 word limit)

Provide a short overview covering a description of the qualification you're enrolled in, your RTO or school 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, 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: 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?
- How has your training assisted your skills development?

### 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?
- How do you work in a team to complete your training?
- 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:

- Examples where you have taken a leadership role inside or outside of school.
- 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: Other qualities and pursuits (400 word limit)

You may wish to include information about:

- Have you had to address any challenges that have impacted on your training?
- When have you been required to use initiative either in your training, your personal life or your school/workplace?
- What other qualities or activities do you feel would be useful in your role as VET in School Student of the Year?
- What other community or work experience have you had?

## 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.**

- » **Course confirmation (This is a requirement for VET in Schools Students)**  
Confirmation of the course/qualification you are enrolled in at the time of your nomination.
- » **Reference letter from your school**  
Confirmation from your Principal or teacher stating that you are currently enrolled in school at the time of entry submission.  
**This is a requirement for VET in Schools Students**
- » **Awards and prizes**  
Copies of any certificates or prizes you may have received such as a sporting award or community service award -etc.
- » **Resume**  
A copy of your resume
- » **Reference or letter of support**  
A reference or letter of support from either your employer, trainer or teacher.
- » **Workplace/training action photos**  
Action photos of you in your workplace or in training.