



Awards and recognition for trainers and assessors

A reference guide for trainers, assessors and managers in automotive and mining Vocational Education and Training (VET) contexts.

Part of the AUSMASA Trainer and Assessor VET Career Framework

About this guide

Formal recognition through training awards is one of the most visible ways the VET sector acknowledges the contribution of trainers, assessors and training organisations. Awards are held at state and territory levels, with winners progressing to the national Australian Training Awards.

This guide describes the awards most relevant to trainers, assessors and RTOs in automotive and mining VET, explains how the pathway works and offers practical advice on making the most of the process.

How the awards pathway works

Australia's training awards operate at 3 levels - regional, state or territory, and national. For most categories, the pathway begins at the state or territory level. Winners at the state level progress to the Australian Training Awards, the peak national recognition program for the VET sector.

A small number of categories, including the Innovation in VET Award, allow direct national entry without first winning at the state level. Each state and territory runs its own awards program, with its own timeline, eligibility requirements and nomination process.

Check the website for your state or territory to find current dates and requirements.

State and territory training awards websites

[Australian Capital Territory - Skills Canberra](#)

[New South Wales - NSW Training Awards](#)

[Northern Territory - NT Training Awards](#)

[Queensland - Queensland Training Awards](#)

[South Australia - SA Training Awards](#)

[Tasmania - Tasmanian Training Awards](#)

[Victoria - Victorian Training Awards](#)

[Western Australia - WA Training Awards](#)

[Australian Training Awards \(national\)](#)



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Awards relevant to trainers, assessors and RTOs

The table below describes the most relevant awards for trainers, assessors, and training organisations in automotive and mining VET contexts. Award names and eligibility requirements can vary slightly between states and territories. Be sure to check your local awards program for the specific criteria that apply.

Awards	Who it is for	Entry pathway
VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year	Qualified trainers and assessors employed by or regularly contracted to an RTO. Must have delivered nationally recognised training.	State or territory training awards. Winners progress to the national Australian Training Awards.
Outstanding Achievement in the VET and Skills Sector	Individuals with more than 15 years of sustained contribution to the VET sector, including innovation, leadership or improved practice.	State or territory training awards for most jurisdictions. Some states offer direct entry. Check your state awards website.
Large Training Provider of the Year	RTOs with 500 or more students demonstrating excellence across all aspects of VET delivery.	State or territory training awards, progressing to national.
Small Training Provider of the Year	RTOs with fewer than 500 students are demonstrating excellence across all aspects of VET delivery.	State or territory training awards, progressing to national.
Innovation in VET	Individuals or organisations with an innovation initiative that has made a significant contribution to the VET sector.	Direct entry to the National Australian Training Awards.

Making the most of the process

The value of an awards process is not limited to winning. Preparing a nomination, whether self-submitted or employer-supported, requires trainers and organisations to reflect on and clearly articulate their contribution, which is often a valuable exercise. Talk to your manager or training coordinator about what OEM training access your organisation has or can arrange.



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For trainers and assessors

- Most state awards programs allow self-nomination. You do not need someone to put you forward; you can nominate yourself.
- You will typically need an endorser, usually your manager or RTO, to support your nomination. Talk to your manager early so they can prepare their endorsement comments.
- Read previous winners' profiles on your state awards website. They give a clear picture of what a strong nomination looks like and the range of contexts and career stages that have been recognised.
- The nomination process asks you to describe your practice, your impact and your contribution. Working through those questions is useful regardless of the outcome.
- Awards cycles vary by state. Check the current timeline early; some programs open nominations 6 months before the awards event.

For managers and program leaders

- Actively encouraging your team to nominate is one of the most direct ways to make contributions visible and to signal that the organisation values recognition.
- When a team member has made a significant contribution, sustained excellent practice, delivered a specific innovation, or has a long career of dedicated service, consider raising the awards program with them directly. Many people are unaware of these awards or do not consider themselves eligible.
- Organisational awards for training providers are also available. If your RTO has a strong story to tell about delivery quality, industry engagement or innovation, the provider awards may be worth considering.

Timing

Award programs open and close on different schedules in each state and territory. Some run regionally before progressing to state finals. Check your state awards website to confirm current timelines, nomination requirements and any changes to categories or eligibility.

Learn more about the Trainer and Assessor VET Career Framework

Explore more practical tools, guides and resources supporting VET capability, wellbeing, industry engagement and career development