

THE TOP

5

TIPS FOR NEXT YEARS' AWARDS

KNOW THE CATEGORIES

1 Individual awards acknowledge apprentices, trainees, VET students and teachers. There also are awards for employers and registered training providers.

KNOW THE TIMELINE

2 For some categories, applicants must first win at state level. Nominations are typically accepted between February and April. For other categories, there is direct entry into the national awards and nominations open December 1.

KNOW THE BENEFITS

3 An Australian Training Award helps winners gain national recognition as a leader in their field, develop networks and build new career opportunities. Prize money also is available.

KNOW THE CRITERIA

4 This is different for each category but for Apprentice of the Year, for example, judges consider factors such as an applicant's communication skills, resilience, and involvement in the community.

FIND OUT MORE

5 For the state award, visit tasc.sa.gov.au/SA-Training-Awards/Conditions-of-entry, while for direct entry to the national awards, visit australiantrainingawards.gov.au/how-to-apply.

TRADES

STATE'S BEST ARE ON TOP



Many SA tradies are off to the best start, Melanie Burgess writes

SOUTH Australian training provider PEER has been named one of the nation's best at the 2018 Australian Training Awards.

The organisation, based at Albert Park, was presented with the award for Small Training Provider of the Year at a gala event in Sydney last week, which acknowledged the vocational education and training (VET) sector's top employers, trainers, apprentices and trainees.

Chief executive Peter Nolan says PEER set a "bold vision" in 2016 to become Australia's leading learning organisation.

"Over the past couple of years, we have taken PEER to the next level of operational excellence, world-class learning resources, student-centred learning and caring for our students," he says.

PEER electrical graduate Jarrod Morton was also a finalist for the Apprentice of the Year category.

Morton, who was named Apprentice of the Year at the SA Training Awards earlier this year, says it was an honour to represent his state at the Australian Training Awards.

"It was awesome to establish relationships with all the finalists and to celebrate my success with my family and friends," he says.

Morton is now a qualified electrician employed by BW Thompson Electrical Pty Ltd and hopes to one day become an electrical engineer.

Nolan says he is looking forward to watching Morton grow as a leader in the industry.

"PEER apprentices consistently win state and national awards and

seeing PEER graduates become success stories in their own right, is exceptionally rewarding," he says.

The Australian Training Awards' 2018 Apprentice of the Year award was presented to New South Wales' Michael Edwards, who was a mechanic for 15 years before completing a second apprenticeship and becoming an electrician.

Edwards says his first trade taught him a lot of life skills and made him a very practical person.

"It took me a long way through life," he says.

"Even when I wasn't working in that trade, with all the other jobs I have had, it (the skills) have applied really well. It made the transition into another trade really easy.

"I had three kids under six when I started (the electrical apprenticeship) and six months in I thought 'I shouldn't be doing this, this is hard', but if you really want something you will find a way to get through it."

TAFE SA lecturer Lidia Lipkiewicz was awarded the Excellence in Language, Literacy and Numeracy Practice Award for her work teaching English to migrant jobseekers.

Skills and Vocational Education Minister Michaelia Cash, who attended the awards night, says "the VET story in Australia is exceptional and inspirational".

"Our prosperity as a nation is built on our skilled workforce and what does vocational education give us? It gives us exactly that – the skilled workforce that has built our country to be, quite frankly, the best country in the world," she says.

"I believe vocational education and training in Australia should be seen as a first-choice path for students leaving school ... for those who may be in the workforce but are thinking of changing their careers (and) for those who want to upskill within their chosen field."

TOP CLASS: PEER has been named Small Training Provider of the Year.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

email questions to
careers_qs@news.com.au



I'M INVITED TO MANY WORK-RELATED XMAS EVENTS AND IT GETS TOO MUCH. WILL IT AFFECT MY PERSONAL BRAND IF I DON'T DO THEM ALL?



LISA MORRIS
SENIOR REGIONAL DIRECTOR,
HAYS

No, it will not affect your personal brand, however, Christmas parties are a great opportunity to talk to people who you might not interact with on a daily basis but with whom you want a good working relationship. There's no need to attend every one. Depending on the event, you can often say hello to the people you know, perhaps meet one or two other people you've never formally been introduced to but would like to know, then leave.



JUSTIN HINORA
EXECUTIVE CONSULTANT,
HENDER CONSULTING

Make a list of upcoming events and prioritise quality over quantity. Given the degrees of separation in Adelaide, it is very likely, depending on the industry, that you will see the same people or representatives from the same organisation at various events, so perhaps factor that in when selecting events that may help to expand your professional network, rather than simply sharing a drink with the usual suspects like it was groundhog day.



ALISON SURJAN
DIRECTOR OF CONSULTING
SERVICES, MORTON PHILIPS

This is a tricky one and the answer is simply that you cannot be everywhere. Personal brand is highly important in a lot of roles, but equally important is your ability to prioritise and juggle many demands. Can you attend multiple events on the same day by going to each but for a shorter period of time? Or is it better for your brand to be at one over another? Decline politely and always offer an alternative time for a one-on-one catch up.



ALEXANDRA ROSSER
HEAD OF ORGANISATIONAL
PSYCHOLOGY CONSULTING,
STILLWELL MANAGEMENT
CONSULTANTS

You should go to your organisation's celebrations as this is important for culture, morale and team building. Attending key clients' events will also demonstrate respect and appreciation for the work they have given you. In terms of other events, there is greater tolerance and understanding towards people pacing themselves through the festive season than in the past.

CONTACTS: Editorial: Cara Jenkin, Melanie Burgess. Sales: Claude Bin. Place an ad: Call 131 841, email deb.milnesp@news.com.au or visit newsjobs.com.au
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