

Media Release

The Hon Gayle Tierney MLC

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Minister for Training and Skills

Minister for Higher Education



Monday, 8 November 2021

LEARN LOCAL AWARDS 2021 FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

A pool of 25 finalists has been announced in the 15th annual Victorian Learn Local Awards, recognising excellence in the adult community education sector.

Finalists have been named across eight categories, whose achievements illustrate how adult and community education changes the lives of Victorians. Additional categories at this year's event recognise innovation, leadership and local partnerships.

The finalists represent the diversity of skills and training provided by the sector across different vocations in all parts of metropolitan and regional Victoria, including Mildura, Horsham, Ballarat, Shepparton and Gippsland.

The prize money totals \$84,000, with organisation award category winners receiving \$10,000, individual category winners awarded \$5,000 and category finalists given \$1,000.

The Learn Local Awards is presented by the Adult, Community and Further Education Board and shine a spotlight on the industry and its learners, trainers and leaders.

Learn Local providers offer a unique, community-based learning option, with a focus on the individual needs of learners. They are particularly suited to adult learners of all ages looking to develop their digital, literacy, numeracy and employability skills for study, work and life.

There are more than 240 not-for-profit community organisations registered as Learn Locals across Victoria, which deliver pre-accredited training and other programs to nearly 30,000 people each year.

See all the finalists and find out more at vic.gov.au/learn-local-awards. Winners will be announced in December.

Quote attributable to Minister for Training and Skills Gayle Tierney

"Congratulations to all the finalists – the Learn Local Awards are a chance for them, and the whole adult education sector, to celebrate their successes and resilience throughout the challenges of the pandemic."

Quote attributable to Parliamentary Secretary for Training and Skills Cesar Melhem

"Learn Locals play a vital role by providing transformative opportunities for Victorians to connect, learn and live happy lives at work and in the community."

Quote attributable to ACFE Board Chair Maria Peters

"The Learn Local Awards recognise inspirational individuals, programs and providers of the Learn Local sector and the way the sector continues to change the lives of thousands of Victorians each year."