

Media Release

The Hon Gayle Tierney MP
Minister for Skills and TAFE
Minister for Regional Development



Wednesday, 1 November 2023

LEARN LOCAL AWARDS 2023 FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

Students, teachers and Learn Local providers will be recognised for their inspirational efforts in Victoria’s adult and community education sector at this year’s Learn Local Awards.

Minister for Skills and TAFE Gayle Tierney congratulated the 25 finalists for the 17th Annual Learn Local Awards, acknowledging their remarkable contribution to their communities.

The awards recognise Victorians across eight categories, highlighting the achievements of learners, trainers and leaders, as well as programs and partnerships throughout the year.

The breadth of programs and locations represented among the finalists illustrates the significant impact of adult and community education among Victorians.

With 10 of the finalists from regional Victoria, the awards showcase the extensive reach of Learn Locals – from Mildura and Wodonga to Geelong, to Sale and Orbost in the Gippsland region.

Learn Local plays a critical role in Victoria’s post-secondary system, offering a unique community-based learning option with a focus on the individual needs of learners. More than 240 not-for-profit community organisations are registered as Learn Locals.

The awards prize pool offers a total of \$84,000, with organisation award category winners receiving \$10,000, individual category winners \$5,000 and category finalists \$1,000.

Winners will be announced at the 2023 Learn Local Awards gala ceremony to be held on 24 November. See the finalists and find out more at: vic.gov.au/learn-local-awards.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Skills and TAFE Gayle Tierney

“Learn Locals are helping people to transform their lives through community-based education that is focused on the individual needs of learners.”

“Congratulations to all the award finalists this year and thank you for going the extra mile to help Victorians access the skills they need to achieve their goals in work and in life.”

Quotes attributable to Adult, Community and Further Board Chair, Teresa De Fazio

“These awards are a wonderful opportunity for the ACFE Board to recognise the inspirational individuals, programs and providers that are part of the Learn Local sector. Congratulations to all finalists!”

The Victorian Learn Local Awards 2023 finalists are:

The Ro Allen Award - Learn Local Pre-accredited Learner (Skills for study and life)

- Ayan Daher, Kensington Neighbourhood House
- Noor Jan Muhammad Juma, Cultura
- Jack Xiao Zhou, Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre
- Chiara Disarno, Orbost Education Centre

Victorian Learn Local Pre-accredited Learner (Skills for work) Award

- Jayce Collett, WCIG
- Jordan Gellie, Workforce Plus
- Daria Iurissevich, Cultura
- Isabella O'Hara, Cire Services

Victorian Learn Local Pre-accredited Trainer Award

- Katrina Lambert, WCIG
- Renee Cook, Cire Services Incorporated
- Zohra Hasib, Hampton Park Community House
- Laurie Niven, Pines Learning

Victorian Learn Local Leadership Award

- Jenny Carson, Pines Learning
- Heather McTaggart, The Basin Community House

Victorian Learn Local Pre-accredited Program Award (For small providers)

- Sew & Grow, Kensington Neighbourhood House
- Introduction to Floristry, Orbost Education Centre

Victorian Learn Local Pre-accredited Program Award (For large providers)

- Cooking Without Borders, Cultura
- Future4me, Cire Services
- Starting work as a cleaner - Collaboration with Spotless and Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services

Victorian Learn Local Innovation Award

- Baptcare, Carringbush Adult Education
- Introduction to Disability Support Work, Christie Centre Inc.
- Just in Time Garden and Maintenance Enterprise, Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre
- Bridges of Understanding: Ukrainian Conversation Class, Cheltenham Community Centre

Victorian Learn Local Partnership Award

- Albury Wodonga Volunteer Resource Bureau "Albury Wodonga Volunteer Resource Bureau & Wodonga TAFE"
- Just in Time Industry Grant Project "Hungry 4 Success - Training" "Glen Park Community Centre Inc. Eastland Shopping Centre & Glad Group"