

Media Release

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



Tuesday, 13 February 2024

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR VICTORIAN LEARN LOCAL AWARDS

The Allan Labor Government is shining a light on the adult and community education sector, with learners, trainers and community training providers celebrated in the annual 2024 Victorian Learn Local Awards.

Minister for Skills and TAFE Gayle Tierney today visited Kensington Neighborhood House to announce that nominations for this year's awards are now open.

Victorians are encouraged to nominate individuals and organisations that showcase innovation and the transformative role of Learn Locals, delivering vital foundation and workplace skills that support students to secure jobs and pathways into TAFE and further study.

Over 200 Learn Local providers operate across Victoria, offering a range of courses from digital skills to maths, English language, literacy and employability. More than 30,000 Victorians each year are supported by Learn Locals to break educational barriers and learn essential skills for life and work, right in their very own communities.

2023 winners include Ayan Daher, who received the Ro Allen Pre-accredited Learner (skills for study and life) Award for her commitment to her own training and leadership supporting the development of Kensington Neighborhood House's Sew & Grow Program.

The Sew & Grow program also took home last year's Pre-Accredited Program Award for Small Providers, co-designed with local community to deliver fundamental language, literacy, and numeracy education, while supporting students to develop industry knowledge, networks, and employment pathways.

Other winners include Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services, whose 'starting work as a cleaner' collaboration with Spotless took home the 2023 Learn Local Pre-Accredited Program Award for Large Providers.

Targeting jobseekers from multicultural communities, Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services utilised full bilingual support to teach contextualised foundation and employability skills for a health setting, with graduates supported to progress into employment as cleaners at Bendigo Hospital.

These are just some of the many innovative Learn Local programs being run across Victoria, ensuring every Victorian has access to the foundation and workplace skills they need, right in their own community, to achieve their study and employment goals.

Presented by the Adult, Community and Further Education Board (ACFE), the Learn Local Awards are a unique opportunity to recognise and reward this excellence and innovation in the sector. Winners in the organisations categories will win \$10,000 while individual winners take home \$5,000 and finalists win \$1,000.

Contact the TAFE and Training line at **13 18 23**, visit your nearest Skills and Jobs Centre, or visit learnlocal.org.au to find your nearest Learn Local courses to kickstart your journey to a new job, TAFE, or further study.

To learn more about the awards visit vic.gov.au/learn-local-awards

A free professional editing service is available to help with nominations. To access the service, send a draft of your application in a Word document to: learnlocal@djsir.vic.gov.au

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Quotes attributable to Minister for Skills and TAFE Gayle Tierney

“Our adult and community education system plays a vital role in helping Victorians build the skills they need for the job they want, and we recognise the lifechanging impact of the sector through the Learn Local Awards.”

“To shine a spotlight on the fantastic work that is happening in our communities, we want Victorians to nominate individuals, programs and training providers for these Awards and I strongly encourage everyone to do so.”

Quotes attributable to ACFE Board Chairperson Teresa De Fazio

“The Learn Local Awards are a chance to acknowledge the many achievements of those involved in the sector: inspirational learners and those dedicated to empowering individuals and communities through education. Don't miss your chance to be a part of this important event.”

Quote attributable to Member for Northern Metropolitan Sheena Watt

“It's fantastic to be here at Kensington Neighborhood House to announce applications are now open, so we can continue to encourage and celebrate our local education legends and the difference they make each and every day.”