



Victorian Aboriginal Education  
Association Inc.

# WURREKER AWARDS

**Nominations Booklet**

**2024**

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## KEY DATES

### **Nominations open**

3 April 2024

### **Nominations close**

31 May 2024

### **Shortlisting & Interviews**

Early July 2024

### **Awards Night**

19th September 2024.

**\*Dates subject to change**

# PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

VAEAI is excited to present our 19th Annual Wurreker Awards. These awards celebrate the participation and success of Koorie people in Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Higher Education sectors.



VAEAI continues to take a leading role in education and training for the Koorie community alongside our principal partner the Department of Jobs, Services, Industries and Regions. VAEAI is proud of the continuing success in this sector and the significant impact of the Wurreker Strategy, enabling the system to better meet the needs of Koorie learners and support positive training and employment outcomes.

Some of the positive changes to the education and training sector that we have seen this past year include the introduction of the Skills First Aboriginal Access Fee Waiver. This waiver supports Koorie students to enrol in Skills First funded courses free from tuition fees, helping remove financial barriers to TAFE.

Working in partnership with the Adult Community & Further Education (ACFE) Board, VAEAI has developed Protocols for Koorie Education in Victorian Learn Local Services. This protocols document signals an important milestone in our partnership with the Adult Community and Further Education (ACFE) sector. The key objectives of the protocols are:

- to increase and retain Koorie participation through supportive and culturally inclusive learning environments;
- to include local Koorie histories, culture and perspectives across the curriculum of each Learn Local provider for the benefit of all students.

Wurreker is an essential enabling strategy that supports Koorie students in VET and Higher Education. The Wurreker Awards celebrate achievement, inclusion and best practice in the VET and Higher Education sector. We encourage you to nominate those in your community who deserve recognition for their work in the VET and higher education sector.

I look forward to seeing you at the Wurreker Awards.

**Geraldine Atkinson**

VAEAI President

*Geraldine Atkinson*

# SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process for each Award category is as follows:

## Call for Nominations

Opening date is the 3/4/2024. Nominations will end at 31/5/2024.

## Addressing Eligibility Requirements

Nominees must meet the eligibility requirements outlined in each of the categories. Nominations that do not meet the eligibility requirements will not be considered.

## Selection Panel

Selection panels will consist of people who have specialist knowledge in vocational education and training, adult education, higher education and employment.

## Shortlisting

Shortlisting of award nominations will be undertaken by members of a selection panel based on how well nominees address the selection criteria for each award category. Shortlisted nominees will be invited to attend the awards ceremony as VAEAI guests.

## Interviews

Shortlisted nominees who meet the selection criteria will participate in a phone interview with members of the relevant Selection Panel at least four weeks prior to the Awards ceremony.

## Assessment of Nominations

Each award category will be judged on a points system that will be applied at both the shortlisting and interview stages of the selection process.

## Decision Dates

Final decisions concerning Award Winners will be made upon completion of all nominee interviews for each Award category. Award winners will not be notified until the Awards ceremony which will be held in 2024.

## Awards Night

Formal presentation of the 2024 Wurreker Awards on the 19th September 2024.

# INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

## Community Based Employee

Outstanding achievement in community-based employment programs or initiatives.

### Eligibility

Must be a Koorie person employed by a Victorian Aboriginal Community Based Organisation who has achieved excellent outcomes from participation in a community-based employment program or initiative.

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## Public Sector Employee

Outstanding achievement in public sector-based employment programs or initiatives.

### Eligibility

Must be a Koorie person employed in the Victorian public sector who has made a significant contribution to their workplace and/or made significant progress in their career. Each award category will be judged on a points system that will be applied at both the shortlisting and interview stages of the selection process.

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## Private Sector Employee

Outstanding achievement in private sector-based employment programs or initiatives.

### Eligibility

Must be a Koorie person employed by a Victorian private sector employer, who has made a significant contribution to their workplace and/or made significant progress in their career.

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## Teacher/Trainer

Outstanding achievement in the delivery of training to Victorian Koorie students.

### Eligibility

Must be a Trainer employed by a Victorian Registered Training Organisation, Learn Local or University able to demonstrate innovative, flexible and effective training delivery to Koorie students.

# SELECTION CRITERIA

## Individual Awards

- Community Based Employee
- Public Sector Employee
- Private Sector Employee
- Teacher/Trainer

### **Please attach information that supports the nomination for the following selection criteria:**

- Demonstrate that the participation of the award nominee in training and/or employment programs has made a significant contribution to their overall professional and personal development;
- Demonstrate the nominee's achievement of outcomes from participation in training and/or employment programs;
- Demonstrate the positive and sustainable impact and benefit the nominee's participation in training and/or employment programs has provided to their organisation and the Koorie community through:
  - Increasing or enhancing community participation/involvement or interest in the organisation;
  - Developing processes and/or practices and/or applying new knowledge and skills in ways which contribute to the improved performance of the organisation;
  - Increasing the knowledge, understanding and acceptance of Koorie culture within the organisation

# SUBMISSIONS

**Nomination form:** [www.vaeai.org.au/9273/](http://www.vaeai.org.au/9273/)

Please ensure that you address the selection criteria on page 6 and include details of at least two referees who can support your application.

**Nominations must be received by no later than close of business 31 May 2024.**

**All nominations must be sent to:**  
wurrekerawards@vaeai.org.au

If you have any queries regarding the VAEAI Wurreker Awards, please contact the VAEAI office on (03) 9481-0800 or **wurrekerawards@vaeai.org.au** or your Wurreker Regional Broker.

## PROMPT QUESTIONS

**Individual Awards** – Feel free to use these optional prompt questions in your selection criteria.

### Community Based Employee

1. What community-based organisation do they work for?
2. What contributions has your nominee made towards their community-based organisation or the Koorie community?
3. Why are they deserving of the Community Based Employee Award?

### Public Sector Employee

1. What public sector organisation do they work for?
2. Has your nominee experienced positive outcomes from their training / employment programs?
3. How has your nominee made positive contributions to their organisations and / or the Koorie community?
4. Why are they deserving of the Public Sector Employee Award?

### Private Sector Employee

1. What Private Sector organisation do they work for?
2. What contributions has your nominee made towards their community-based organisation or the Koorie community?
3. Why are they deserving of the Private Sector Employee Award?

### Teacher/Trainer

1. Where do they work as a teacher or trainer?
2. What contributions has your nominee made towards Koorie education over the last year?
3. Why are they deserving of the Private Sector Employee Award?

# TRAINING AWARDS

## Koorie Organisation – Dr Mary Atkinson Award

The development and/or delivery of training programs which build the skills of the workforce and the overall capabilities of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) in Victoria

### Eligibility

Applicants must be a Victorian Aboriginal Community based organisation able to demonstrate its role in the development and/or delivery of effective Koorie training programs.

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## Innovative Koorie Learner Pathways

There are two awards in this category:

- **TAFE Providers**
- **Non-TAFE Training Providers**

This award is for new and innovative Community driven/led programs and initiatives (including partnerships) that have resulted in improved pathways and career or employment outcomes for Koorie learners in Victoria.

### Eligibility

**TAFE provider:** Must be a Victorian TAFE Institute actively involved in community driven partnership arrangements which support career development and employment outcomes for its Koorie students.

**Non-TAFE provider:** Must be either a Victorian Learn Local, Private Registered Training Organisation or University supporting the Wurreker Strategy through active involvement in community driven partnership arrangements which support career development and employment outcomes for its Koorie students.



# SELECTION CRITERIA

## Training Awards

- Koorie Organisation – Dr. Mary Atkinson Award
- Innovative Koorie Learner Pathways

### **Please attach information that supports the nomination for the following selection criteria:**

- Demonstrate active engagement in innovative programs and/or partnerships aimed at increasing pathways and outcomes for Koorie learners;
- Demonstrate positive outcomes for Koorie learners which have resulted from innovative programs and services driven by community and developed in partnership with for example, other providers, employers, group training companies, community organisations etc.
- Demonstrate the positive and sustainable impact and benefit the award nominee's programs, services and partnerships have had on Koorie participants/students, its own organisation, other providers, employers and the Koorie community through the contribution they have made to:
  - Increased or enhanced community participation/involvement in education and training;
  - Improved outcomes for Koorie participants/learners;
  - Building or enhancing relationships between the provider, the Koorie community and other key stakeholders;
  - Developing services, programs, policies and practices that have been adopted by other training providers;
  - Improved or increased knowledge and understanding of Koorie culture amongst staff and non-Koorie participants/students.
- Demonstrate that the award nominee is recognised as a leader in the provision of training and programs for Koorie participants/learners by those individuals, the Koorie community and other training providers.

# SUBMISSIONS

**Nomination form:** [www.vaeai.org.au/9273/](http://www.vaeai.org.au/9273/)

Please ensure that you address the selection criteria on page 9 and include details of at least two referees who can support your application.

\*Koorie Organisations nominated do not have to be Registered Training Organisations to be eligible for this category of awards.

**Nominations must be received by no later than close of business 31 May 2024.**

**All nominations must be sent to:**  
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If you have any queries regarding the VAEAI Wurreker Awards, please contact the VAEAI office on (03) 9481-0800 or **wurrekerawards@vaeai.org.au** or your Wurreker Regional Broker.

## PROMPT QUESTIONS

**Training Provider Awards** - Feel free to use these optional prompt questions in your selection criteria.

### Koorie Organisation – Dr Mary Atkinson Award

1. What programs or initiatives impressed you from this organisation?
2. Why are they deserving of the Dr. Mary Atkinson – Koorie Organisation Award?

### Innovative Koorie Learner Pathways – TAFE Provider

1. Why are they deserving of the Innovative Koorie Learner Pathways TAFE Award?
2. What contributions has your nominee made towards driving programs, initiatives or partnerships in the TAFE sector?
3. How has the output of this provider resulted in improved pathways and career or employment outcomes for Koorie learners in Victoria?

### Innovative Koorie Learner Pathways – Non-TAFE Provider

1. Why are they deserving of the Innovative Koorie Learner Pathways Award – Non-TAFE provider Award?
2. Is your nominee a community driven program or initiative that contributes to Koorie training and education?
3. How has your nominee contributed to improving pathways and career or employment outcomes for Koorie learners in Victoria?

# ORGANISATIONAL AWARDS

## Community Based Employer

Development and/or delivery of community employment programs or initiatives.

### Eligibility

Must be a Victorian community-based employer able to demonstrate good/best practice in the design and delivery of Koorie employment programs or initiatives.

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## Government Employer

Development and/or delivery of innovative employment and training initiatives and/or programs.

### Eligibility

Must be a Victorian Public Sector or Local Government Employer able to demonstrate good/best practice in the design and delivery of Koorie employment programs or initiatives.

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## Private Sector Employer

Development and/or delivery of Innovative employment and training programs or initiatives.

### Eligibility

Must be a private sector employer of Victorian Koories able to demonstrate innovation in employment and training targeted to Koories.

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# SELECTION CRITERIA

## Individual Awards

- Community Based Employer
- Government Employer (Public Sector or Local Government)
- Private Sector Employer

### **Please attach information that supports the nomination for the following selection criteria:**

- Demonstrate the contribution of the award nominee to the employment and career development of Koories;
- Demonstrate the positive and sustainable impact and benefit the award nominee has had on the lives of individuals, the organisation and the Koorie community through the contribution they have made to:
  - Increasing or enhancing community participation/involvement or interest in the organisation;
  - Building or enhancing positive relationships between the organisation and the Koorie community;
  - Developing employment policies and practices which encourage and support Koorie employees to develop and enhance their career and employment options;
  - Increasing the knowledge, understanding and acceptance of Koorie culture within the organisation.
- Demonstrate that the award nominee is recognised as a leader in the employment of Koories (by those individuals, the organisation as a whole, other employers and the Koorie community)

# SUBMISSIONS

**Nomination form:** [www.vaeai.org.au/9273/](http://www.vaeai.org.au/9273/)

Please ensure that you address the selection criteria on page 12 and include details of at least two referees who can support your application.

**Nominations must be received by no later than close of business 31 May 2024.**

**All nominations must be sent to:**  
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## PROMPT QUESTIONS

**Organisational Awards** - Feel free to use these optional prompt questions in your selection criteria.

### Private Sector Employer

1. How has your nominee built their organisation's capacity to engage with the community?
2. How has your nominee demonstrated a shared respect, meaning and knowledge of Aboriginal People in the workplace?
3. Is your nominee recognised by the Koorie community as a leader in the employment of Koories within their organisation?
4. Why are they deserving of the Private Sector Employer Award?

### Community Based Employer

1. What contributions has your nominee made towards the employment and development of Koorie learners?
2. How has your nominee increased their ability to engage with community?
3. Is your nominee recognised by the Koorie community as a leader in the employment of Koories in their organisations?
4. Why are they deserving of the Community Based Employer Award?

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# WURREKER AWARDS 2024

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