

MEDIA RELEASE

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Communities at Work Wins ACT Large Employer of the Year at the ACT Training Awards, for fourth year in a row

The winners of this year's ACT Training Awards were announced on 15 September by Skills Canberra, with Communities at Work recognised as the ACT Large Employer of the Year for the fourth consecutive year. This award recognises a large organisation with a demonstrated commitment to training its employees and encouraging and assisting them in their employment-related development.

Lee Maiden, Communities at Work CEO, was thrilled to receive the award:

"We are absolutely delighted to have been recognised as the ACT Large Employer of the Year at the ACT Training Awards for the fourth year in a row. Communities at Work has a strong and ongoing commitment to developing the best people, which means a highly skilled and qualified team. To be an employer of choice, and to deliver the best quality programs and services, we need to continually invest in our people.

Personally, I am so incredibly proud of our RTO: the integrity they bring to training, what they bring to our organisation to make sure we're addressing the workforce shortage in early childhood and have the best educators we possibly can. And that's why we keep winning this – because we are so committed to being the best organisation we can be."

Communities at Work is an employer of choice in the ACT, with over 600 passionate and dedicated employees (including almost 500 Early Education and Care educators), all of whom help build a resilient, sustainable and socially inclusive Canberra community.

Communities at Work's learning and development strategies are designed to support organisational excellence and career development. Winning the award for the fourth year in a row demonstrates the organisation's continuing investment in employees, including the development of inclusive workspaces to attract learners from culturally diverse backgrounds.

For example, a trainee from the Communities at Work 2021 Ascend program, who migrated to Australia in 2015, said:

"When I started my study, I was confused because of cultural barriers and not confident in my verbal communication skills. My trainer spent lots of time supporting me through my study, not just to do the course but also to understand the true meaning and reasons behind each sentence. As I am a visual learner, my trainer also used drawing and simplified diagrams to explain and direct me.

After I finished my study, I introduced more than seven other people (most of them migrants) to this course as they definitely will receive the best support from the trainers, who are committed and kind towards everyone, regardless of their religion, background, culture and language."

Communities at Work are also thrilled to have one of its RTO trainer/assessors, Chloe Brewer, nominated as a finalist in the ACT VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year category. Chloe joined Communities at Work almost a decade ago. She started at the organisation as a university student doing a placement at its Richardson Child Care and Education Centre, alongside her studies to become a primary school teacher.

Since then, she has moved within the organisation's various services, from educator to leadership roles in Early Education and Care and Out of School Hours Care, to currently working as a Trainer/Assessor at its Registered Training Organisation (RTO 88148) – The Centre of Professional Learning and Education (CPLE).

As one of Chloe's students said:

"Without Chloe's guidance and unwavering support, I would not have had the confidence to go after my dream of furthering my studies and career. She allowed me to grow and find myself in early education and has inspired me to be the best I can be. She isn't just Educator of the Year; she's Educator of the Century!" – Jessica, Diploma graduate

Communities at Work believes that investing in its employees is crucial to the performance and social impact of the organisation. It is crucial to its ability to deliver the best quality, affordable, innovative, and flexible services that it offers, and to continue to deliver positive outcomes in the Canberra community. It appreciates the recognition from ACT Training Awards and looks forward to continued delivery of training and education excellence.

Winners in each of the 13 categories will become VET ambassadors and compete for national success at the Australian Training Awards in November this year.

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Photos attached to email