



2026 REGIONAL COMPETITION GUIDELINES

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INTRODUCTION

ABOUT

WorldSkills Australia Regional Competitions (**WSARC**) take place biennially and can be hosted by an approved WorldSkills Australia (**WSA**) region. In addition, WSA may choose to engage with an Industry, Trade Exhibition or other event, such as Careers Expo, Fine Food Australia, Australian Jewellery Fair and Reece Road Shows, to host regional competitions.

WSARC are based on skill-specific competition projects, designed by WSA volunteers, who are typically regarded as experts in their skill, before being validated against Australia's National Training Packages and endorsed by the relevant industry.

The Competitions are designed to be run in adaptable formats to suit the requirements of the RTO/Industry or Event that is hosting a competition, these include

- Competition project run as a one-day event – typically 4-6hrs – at an open day, Skills week or exhibition to showcase students, facilities and competition.
- Competition project run in stages/modular – typically these will be held over several days/weeks/months in line with in-class assessments, projects or tasks
- Competitions run using current RTO assessments and adapting the competition to utilise equipment and materials already planned for use in class delivery/assessment, ensuring that the tasks are of equal standard/level to the competition project guidelines

Note: Regardless of the format the competitions are run – the times allocated to tasks and the marking scale (out of 100) must be used.

The purpose of the WSARC is to unearth young Australians currently undertaking an apprenticeship or traineeship who are demonstrating excellence in their chosen skill area.

Any person who is an apprentice, trainee and student is eligible to register and compete in a WSARC. By competing in a WSARC an apprentice, trainee and student can benchmark their skills against other apprentices, trainees or students and importantly against a marking scale that is aligned to Australia's National Training Packages and industries expectations.

The winner of a WSARC is awarded a gold medal, with second and third place receiving a silver or bronze medal respectively. All other participants are awarded a certificate of participation to add to their resume and to demonstrate that they have chosen to challenge themselves, by taking themselves out of their comfort zone and compete against their peers.

Eligible medalists from each WSARC may be invited to compete at the WSA National Championships, held biennially, for the opportunity to compete for the coveted title of Australian Champion in their Skill. Invitations to compete in a WSA National Championships are subject to the terms and conditions set out in the WSA National Championships Progression Guidelines.

NOTE:

This guide is designed to provide you with information and assistance with preparing a WSARC to take place during the 2026 competition cycle. It includes background information, a step-by-step guide to planning, preparing for and hosting WSARC's and next steps for competitors after their WSARC.

An online induction webinar on how to run a regional competition will be made available and run by the VDC (Vocational Development Centre - this is approx. 45 minutes and provides a good overview and a completion certificate that can be used for Professional Development hours. WorldSkills Australia recommends this online induction for all convenors and judges.

The webinar will also be available as a recording but will not provide a completion certificate.

For further information or webinar dates contact mperilli@worldskills.org.au

WHO CAN RUN A WORLDSKILLS AUSTRALIA REGIONAL COMPETITION?

EXISTING WORLDSKILLS AUSTRALIA REGIONS:

1. Any approved WSA region has permission to run a WSARC.
2. As at the date of publishing this guide, there are 34 WSA regions that cover every State of Territory <https://www.worldskills.org.au/regions>.
3. In addition, there are a number of industry events that have been approved to host and run WSARC in 2026. To find out more about Industry Events in your State / Territory, contact WorldSkills Australia on (03) 9249 1000 or info@worldskills.org.au .

NEW REGIONS:

1. RTO's, GTO's and Industry groups who employ or train apprentices / trainees are also eligible to take part in WSARC. This can be done:
 - a) In conjunction with one of the approved WSA regions by contacting the local WSARC <https://www.worldskills.org.au/regions/>
 - b) Independently as a new approved WSA Region. To discuss how you can become an approved WorldSkills Australia region contact WorldSkills Australia directly (03) 92491000 or info@worldskills.org.au.

THE 2026 WORLDSKILLS AUSTRALIA REGIONAL COMPETITION CYCLE

The 2026 WSARC cycle is from 1 February 2026 – 25 October 2026 inclusive.

Competitions can be run after this date by request via State and Territory Manager to WSA for approval

CURRENT SKILLS COMPETITIONS

WSA currently offers 67 skill competitions – 48 Open and 19 VETiS (Vocational Education and Training in Schools), in 6 Industry clusters for the 2026 cycle.

Skills are reviewed on a biennial basis and inclusion of a skill includes the skills relevance to WSA competitions, Industry support for a skill to be included as a skills competition, the national skills shortage list and future skills demand and / or requirements.

It is proposed that for 2026 WSARC the following projects will be made available for the Open and Vocational Education and Training in Schools (VETiS) Competitions:

In addition, new Skills may be added.

Construction & Building	Social & Personal Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bricklaying • Cabinetmaking • Carpentry • Electrical Installations • Joinery • Landscape Construction • Painting & Decorating • Plastering & Dry Wall Applications • Plumbing & Heating • Refrigeration & Airconditioning • Signs & Graphics • Wall & Floor Tiling • VETiS Bricklaying • VETiS Carpentry • VETiS Electrotechnology • VETiS Plumbing • VETiS Primary Industries • VETiS Wall & Floor Tiling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baking • Barbering • Beauty Therapy • Cookery • Hairdressing • Healthcare • Patisserie • Restaurant Service • Retail Butchery • VETiS Commercial Cookery • VETiS Food & Beverage • VETiS Hairdressing • VETiS Healthcare Assistance • VETiS Makeup Services • VETiS Tourism
Information & Communications Technology	Creative Arts & Fashion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Services • Cloud Computing • Cyber Security • IT Network Systems Administration • Programming • Web Design • VETiS Business Services • VETiS Information Technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3D Game Art • Fashion Technology • Floristry • Graphic Design Technology • Jewellery • Visual Merchandising • VETiS Entertainment • VETiS Retail
Manufacturing & Engineering Technology	Transport & Logistics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additive Manufacturing • Construction Steel Work • Electrical Control • Industry 4.0 • Fitting • PLC Programming (Mechatronics) • Sheetmetal Technology • Turning • Welding • VETiS AR Welding • VETiS Metals & Engineering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auto Electrical • Autobody Repair • Automotive Mechanics • Automotive Refinishing • Heavy Vehicle Mechanics • Motorcycle Mechanics • VETiS Automotive Services
NEW Skills	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VETiS Cabinetmaking • Rigging 	

Question?

How can I access the 2026WSARC Projects?

Answer:

You can contact your WSA State Manager (refer page 14) or WorldSkills Australia info@worldskills.org.au

[Regions - WorldSkills Australia](#)

REGIONAL COMPETITION GUIDELINES & RULES FOR COMPETITION ORGANISERS

The following Competition Guidelines apply for all WorldSkills Australia Regional Competitions (**WSARC**):

1. GENERAL RULES

- 1.1. There is no age restriction to enter a WSARC, how-ever to be eligible **to proceed to the 2027 National Championships, competitors must be born on or after 1 January 2003**

Please Note: for eligible National Champions, to be eligible for WorldSkills International 2028 Aichi Japan Competitors must be 22 years or younger in the year of the Competition, therefore must be born on or after 01.01.2006 except for the following skills: Additive Manufacturing, Cloud Computing, Cyber Security, Industry 4.0, Mechatronics, must not be older than 25 years in the year of the Competition so must be born on or after 01.01.2003.

1.2. Open Skills

Competitors should meet at least one of the following criteria for the Skill they intend to compete in:

- Be undertaking an apprenticeship or traineeship Australian RTO/TAFE/University
- Be undertaking studies towards a qualification at an Australian RTO/TAFE/University
- Undertaken/completed qualification at an Australian RTO/TAFE/University

1.3. VET in Schools Skills

Competitors entering a VETiS Regional Competition should be:

- Enrolled in a Secondary School in an appropriate VET in Schools course aligned to a National Training Package
- In their first year of study when competing in the WorldSkills Australia Regional Competition.

- 1.4. Competitors should either work, live or study in the region where they compete.

- 1.5. If a skill competition is not available in a region (i.e. due to lack of participation numbers, inability to source equipment/consumables, capacity of volunteer to facilitate a competition or other valid reason) Competitors may participate in a skill competition in another WSA Region other than where they work, live or study – subject to availability

- 1.6. To ensure a competitor is recognised by WSA, it is essential that all Competitors be registered, on the WSA database, for their specific skill competition prior to the commencement of their WSARC.

- 1.7. Competitors who have competed in previous WSARC and/or a WSA National Championships may enter subsequent WSARC, subject to the WSARC Competition Rules.

- 1.8. Competitors are not permitted to enter the same skill more than once in the same WSARC cycle (i.e. cannot enter the same skill in more than one region).

- 1.9. The WSA Regional Coordinator should ensure each Registered Competitor has the relevant WSA regional project, competition date, start and finish times at least 24 hours prior to the commencement of their competition.

- 1.10. WSARC volunteers, judges and convenors must comply with Australian Government requirements and relevant legislation relating to requirements for working with children in the jurisdiction in which they work and submit a copy of their Working with Children Check (WWCC) or equivalent to Main Regional Coordinator or State and Territory Manager.

2. REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1. A WSARC will be recognised and the ensuing winner of a WSARC will be eligible to progress to the National Championships, when a skill competition has a minimum of six (6) registered competitors (**where possible**) taking part in that WSARC.

- 2.2. In the event that registered competitors from two or more WSA Regions compete in the same WSARC, (refer 1.5) only the gold medallist (or first age eligible) of that WSARC, regardless of the number of different WSA Regions represented, will be eligible to progress to the WSA National Championships, subject to the terms and conditions of entry to the WSA National Championships.

3. REGISTERING COMPETITORS FOR THE REGIONAL COMPETITION

- Refer to Cvent Manual Database Guidelines
- The Main Regional Coordinator/State Manager or Competition Organiser will create the Regional competition that they are looking to hold during the 2026 Regional Cycle in the WSA database
- Competitors who wish to compete in a 2026 WorldSkills Australia Regional Competition are required to register to attend their respective competition in the WSA database either prior to or on the day of the competition. Main Regional Coordinator/State Manager or Competition Organiser will provide the link
- If your region is not hosting a competition in a competitor's chosen skill, please refer the enquiry to your State Manager or WSA who can advise if there is an opportunity for a competitor to compete in another region.
- WSA database will be used to assess the 2026 Regional competition scores throughout Australia, and the subsequent progression to the 2027 National Championships. All competitions and results (scores and ranking) must be recorded in WSA database in order to be eligible to progress to the 2027 National Championships.

4. DURING THE COMPETITION

- 4.1. The WSARC competition should be run as per suggested WSARC project guidelines. Changes to the recommendations in the project or the marking scale are not permitted without the written consent of WorldSkills Australia
- 4.2. Competitors who arrive late for a WSARC will not receive additional time.
- 4.3. Competitors will be offered a familiarisation period whereby:
 - The Chief Judge of a WSARC will conduct a briefing for the competitors, judges, and officials
 - Competitors may test the equipment and materials required to complete the WSARC project
 - It is the competitor's responsibility to advise the Chief Judge, immediately, of any concerns about the equipment and materials, the WSARC project and / or if they feel disadvantaged, for any reason, prior to or during the WSARC.
- 4.4. During the competition, competitors are not permitted to speak to mentors, trainers, parents or members of the public
- 4.5. Competitors wishing to leave the competition area during the competition work time should seek the permission of the Chief Judge before leaving the competition area.
- 4.6. Should a competitor's own tools or equipment require repair(s) during the competition, the competitor will not receive any additional time.
- 4.7. Competitors should not discuss their competition projects or seek advice from their mentors, trainers, or other competitors during the competition.
- 4.8. Competitors must not take pre-written notes, sketches or technical drawings, special aids or any other information relevant to the WSARC project, into the competition area unless the item is specified as a requirement in the WSARC project information / specifications.

5. WORK, HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 5.1. Competition organisers will ensure a safety plan is in place for the workplaces and premises and conduct a risk assessment when planning and on the day of the competition that includes:
 - Provision of appropriate signage, barriers and sanitiser stations
 - Well-being of staff and all attendees
 - Physical distancing
 - Hygiene and cleaning
 - Record Keeping
- 5.2. Prior to a WSARC commencing the Chief Judge and Competition organiser / convenor will perform a safety check of the work site and all relevant equipment.
- 5.3. Prior to a WSARC commencing all competitors, judges and volunteers involved directly with the WSARC are to receive a site induction.
- 5.4. All competitors, judges and volunteers involved directly with the WSARC are required to wear appropriate work clothing, and safety items as per WSARC project guidelines.
- 5.5. Prior to a WSARC commencing all competitors are required to complete a Safe Work Method Statement and submitted to the Chief Judge, with the only exception being when the completion of a Safe Work Method Statement is a required component of the WSARC project.
- 5.6. Safe work practices must be followed, all safety incidents and / or accidents must be reported to the Chief Judge immediately.
- 5.7. Prior to a WSARC commencing all competitors, judges and volunteers involved directly with the WSARC should read and agree to abide by the WorldSkills Australia Code of Conduct and the WorldSkills Australia Alcohol and Drug Management Policy

6. POST COMPETITION

- 6.1. The Chief Judge, along with their judging team should conduct a debrief for all competitors at the end of the WSARC.
- 6.2. The Chief Judge, along with their judging team should immediately following the competitor debrief at the end of a WSARC;
 - Provide the Mark Summary Form for all competitors to the WSA Regional Coordinator/Competition Organiser, who will enter the marks for all competitors into the WorldSkills Australia database within 10 working days of the end of the WSARC; or
 - having agreed in advance with the WSA General Manager, email the mark summary forms for all competitors to WSA – info@worldskills.org.au, who will enter the marks for all competitors into the WorldSkills Australia database within 10 working days of the end of the WSARC;
 - failure to enter the marks for all competitors, may result in that WSARC not being recognised as an official WSARC by WSA and the gold medallist (or first age eligible) not being eligible to progress to the WSA National Championships, subject to the terms and conditions of entry to the WSA National Championships.
- 6.3. It is the responsibility of the WSA Regional Coordinator/Competition Organiser to ensure that each competitor receives:
 - a summary of their marks within 10 working days of the end of the WSARC; and
 - an official WSA Certificate of Participation that includes the competitors name, the skill name, date and location of the WSARC that they competed in; and
 - first place receives an official WSARC Gold Medal immediately following the competitor debrief at the end of a WSARC; and
 - second place receives an official WSARC Silver Medal immediately following the competitor debrief at the end of a WSARC; and
 - third place receives an official WSARC Bronze Medal immediately following the competitor debrief at the end of a WSARC;

- **Please note – there should be no ties for any medal positions – please refer to the competition pack for splitting of a tie requirements per skill**

6.4. The WSARC judging teams' decision will be deemed final unless a grievance procedure has been lodged. (Refer to 8. Regional Grievance Procedure)

7. RESPONSIBILITY

7.1. Responsibility for the overall conduct of the competition, the competitors, judges and volunteers directly involved with a WSARC, rests with the WSA Regional Committee/Competition Organiser, as appointed representatives of WorldSkills Australia.

8. REGIONAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Open Skills

- 8.1. In the first instance complaints should be referred to the chief judge of the skill concerned.
- 8.2. In the event that satisfactory resolution cannot be achieved, the grievance should be heard by the Regional Grievance Committee of that Region/Organisation.
- 8.3. The Regional Grievance Committee should comprise of:
- Chairperson of Regional Committee or their representative or if Industry group – CEO/GM or HR Manager
 - Independent person from an unrelated skill or State and Territory Manager, and
 - A nominated representative (industry related) of the complainant if required.
 - The Regional Grievance Committee decision will be final.

VET in School Skills

- 8.4. In the first instance complaints should be referred to the chief judge of the skill concerned.
- 8.5. In the event that satisfactory resolution cannot be achieved, the grievance will be heard by the Regional Grievance Committee of that Region.
- 8.6. The Regional Grievance Committee shall comprise:
- VET in Schools Coordinator or their representative
 - Independent person from an unrelated skill, or State and Territory Manager and
 - A nominated representative (industry related) of the complainant if required).
 - The VETiS Regional Grievance Committee decision will be final.

9. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRESSION

9.1. Please refer to the WSA National Championships Progression Policy Document

INSURANCE

WorldSkills Australia has in place Public and Products Liability insurance to provide cover for situations arising out of WorldSkills Australia negligence with regards to personal injury or property damage to third parties caused in the conduct of WorldSkills Australia business activities, including the delivery of WorldSkills Australia sanctioned Regional competitions.

- Public & Products Liability - \$20M
- Competitor Personal Accident Insurance
- Volunteer Personal Accident Insurance
- Details of the various limits of cover for this policy & certificates of currency for the above insurance policies are available on request finance@worldskills.org.au

SPONSORSHIP/PARTNERSHIPS

- Some WorldSkills Australia competition skills are sponsored by organisations that partner with WorldSkills Australia to help provide competition materials and/or equipment or prizes as per their agreement with WorldSkills Australia.
- A list of Partners, the equipment, materials or prizes and contact details are available from procurement@worldskills.org.au
- If there is not currently an appropriate partnership in place, Competition Organisers are encouraged to source potential local sponsorship for the Regional Competitions - as many expenses can potentially be covered by partners financially or in-kind.
- WorldSkills Australia has a set of tools and resources available such as introductory letters and sponsorship proposal templates – see WSA website

Note: If local sponsorship is secured, it is important that appropriate recognition is provided to the Partner. This may include:

- ✓ The partner's logo clearly displayed on signage, posters, social media posts, PowerPoint presentations, invitations, etc.
- ✓ Thank you letters and a Certificate of Appreciation
- ✓ Acknowledgement of the Partner in local media
- ✓ For any queries relating to new potential partners please contact the WorldSkills Australia Head of Partnerships and Brand jkuan@worldskills.org.au

DONATIONS

- WorldSkills Australia is a registered charity and is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR), allowing WorldSkills Australia to receive tax deductible contributions from donors.
- If a donation is provided for a WorldSkills Australia event or activity, it is required to be banked into the WorldSkills Australia bank account for a tax-deductible receipt to be provided.
- Donations can also be made online on the WorldSkills Australia website. <https://www.worldskills.org.au/donate-online/>

FUNDRAISING

- All funds received for a WorldSkills Australia event or activity from fundraising efforts is required to be banked into the WorldSkills Australia bank account. The funds will be allocated to the respective region's account held by WorldSkills Australia on their behalf.
- Fundraising monies can only be spent on the activity the money has been raised for.
- Receipts can be provided for fundraising monies paid to WorldSkills Australia. However, the receipt will only acknowledge payment and cannot be counted as a tax-deductible gift.
- Any queries relating to Donations and Fundraising should be forwarded to finance@worldskills.org.au

KEY MILESTONES

The following key milestones apply to the WorldSkills Australia Regional Competition cycle.

TENTATIVE DATES	MILESTONE
1 February 2026	Start of Regional Competition Cycle
25 October 2026	Completion of Regional Competition cycle
25 October 2026	Nominations open for Regions/Industry to submit competitor nominations for consideration to the WorldSkills Australia National Championships
1 November 2026	Final date for all scores to be entered/completed on the Database scoring system for WorldSkills Australia
13 December 2026	WorldSkills Australia to notify STMs of successful National Championships Competitors and invitations sent out
12 April 2026	Final Competitor numbers for payment dates (tbc)
June 2027	3 – 5 June 2027 National Championships Adelaide Showgrounds

CONTACT US

WORLDSKILLS AUSTRALIA NATIONAL OFFICE

Level 7, 379 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

t: +61 (0)3 9249 1000

info@worldskills.org.au

www.worldskills.org.au

OFFICE STAFF		
NAME	POSITION	EMAIL ADDRESS
Trevor Schwenke	Chief Executive Officer	tschwenke@worldskills.org.au
Brigitte Collins	General Manager	bcollins@worldskills.org.au
Vicki Kahanoff	Chief Finance Officer	vkahanoff@worldskills.org.au
David Payne	Senior Event Operations Lead (Head of Event Operations)	dpayne@worldskills.org.au
Ben Jessup	Head of Communications & Marketing	bjessup@worldskills.org.au
Stephen Flaherty	Head of Partnerships	sflaherty@worldskills.org.au
Michelle Basso	Finance & Reporting Lead	finance@worldskills.org.au
Marguerita Perilli	Skills Engagement Lead	mperilli@worldskills.org.au

STATE AND TERRITORY MANAGERS		
NAME	STATE	EMAIL ADDRESS
Leon Fraser	ACT	leon.fraser@cit.edu.au
Adam Lucas	NSW	adam.lucas@tafensw.edu.au
Heather White	VETiS NSW	heather.m.white@det.nsw.edu.au
NT Skills	NT	Skillsnt.exec@education.nt.gov.au
Sue Smith	QLD	sue.smith@tafeqld.edu.au
David Smith	SA	wsa.teamsa@sa.gov.au
Frank Lucks	SA (TAFE SA)	frank.lucks@tafesa.edu.au
Adrijana Asceric	VETiS SA	adrijana.asceric@sa.gov.au
Jacqui Maclaine	TAS	jacqui.maclaine@skills.tas.gov.au
Mick Prato	VIC	mick.prato@ecodev.vic.gov.au
Victoria Robinson	VETiS- VIC	victoria.robinson@education.vic.gov.au
Fiona Johnson	WA	fiona.johnson@dtwd.wa.gov.au