

# Trainer of the Year



## 2026 Entry Form

The **Trainer of the Year Award** recognises an exceptional industry professional who has gone above and beyond to mentor, inspire and develop apprentices in hairdressing, barbering and beauty therapy.

This award celebrates a trainer who is dedicated to excellence, fosters talent, and makes a lasting impact on the future of the industry.

### Prize

HITO Prize Pack



A certificate and engraved trophy

### Timeline

- 14 August **Entries close**
- September **Finalists announced**
- November **Winners announced at HITO Graduation and Awards ceremonies**
  - Central** Wellington 1 Nov
  - Southern** Christchurch 8 Nov
  - Northern** Auckland 22 Nov

## Entrant Details

Full name

Workplace Name

Address

City

Postcode

Region

Northern

Central

Southern

Phone

Email

Are you a current HITO trainer?

Yes

No

Instagram Handle (optional)

## Rules of Entry

By entering you agree to abide by the competition rules:

- Entrants must be a current HITO trainer.
- Entrants must hold a recognised New Zealand qualification.
- All information received and submitted is confidential.
- Entry form, written reference, release form and submission are **due by 14 August 2026**. No entries will be accepted after this date.
- The judges' decisions are final, and judges will be unable to provide individual feedback.
- Finalists will be announced in September 2026. Due to the number of entries, only finalists will be notified of the status of their entry via email.
- The winner will be announced at the regional HITO Graduation and Awards ceremonies.

# How to enter

## Entry Criteria

To enter the competition submit a **VIDEO** or **WRITTEN ENTRY** and answer the following questions.



**TOP TIP** The judges will judge on the 4 topics below.

### Strong work ethic and commitment to training

Strong work ethic and commitment to training.

*Showcase your excellence in training through your day-to-day practices as a trainer.*



### Share your training style

Demonstrate your excellence in teaching by showcasing your approach to training.

*This could include hands-on coaching, knowledge sharing, or feedback sessions.*



### X-factor - What makes you the best?

Explain what makes you an exceptional trainer.



### Contribution to the industry

Explain how you support learner success and what drives you to mentor and develop apprentices.



Please submit a high resolution, horizontal (landscape) photo of yourself with your entry.

The video must not be any longer than **4 minutes**. Written entries must not exceed **1500 words**.

## Please note

The video can be created on any platform and does not have to be publicly shared but must be sent through to HITO in high resolution.

Your video should be engaging, inspiring and authentic. You can use a mixture of visual and audio overlay, choose the format that you believe will best capture your experience as a trainer.

Finalists will be asked to sign a release form. The winner's submission may be presented at the HITO Graduation and Awards ceremonies.

## References

One written workplace reference is required. Please ensure references are from your employer, senior stylists, clients and/or someone who knows you well.

References should reflect the qualities we look for in the Trainer of the Year, verifying the statements by the Trainer.

### References provided to answer the question below:

*Why should your Trainer win the HITO Trainer of the Year award?*

## Judging Process

At all stages, judges score independently of other judges.

- **Stage one** of judging is carried out by HITO representatives. HITO will verify your apprenticeship learning progress and achievements upon receipt of entry.
- **Stage two** of judging is carried out by hair, beauty, and barbering industry representatives. During this stage, a shortlist of finalists is identified.

## Submissions

All entries must be received by **Friday 14 August 2026** and accompanied by a completed entry form.

Please submit your entry by sending the file to **marketing@hito.org.nz** with your full name stated in the subject line.

### File too large to email?

If the video file is too large, we recommend using **WeTransfer.com** to create a link. Please submit your downloaded link to **marketing@hito.org.nz**



## Is your submission complete?

Your completed entry should include ✓



Completed entry form



4-minute video or written entry



1x written reference



Photo of you high resolution + landscape

## Have a question?

Please email **marketing@hito.org.nz** if you have any questions regarding the entry criteria and format of the entry.