



www.careerlinks.nsw.edu.au

What We Do

Career Links is a community-focused, not-for-profit organisation supporting young people to transition from school to further education and employment across Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and the Hunter.

Through programs like work placements, YAKKA, Get Back in the Game, Building Women's Careers, and Youth Links, we connect students with real opportunities.

We also deliver major regional events including the Career Expo, Future Choices Expos, EV Challenge and Young Business Minds - helping build a skilled, future-ready workforce.

At Career Links, we're
always focused on
preparing people for
the future...



But programs like the Young Business Minds Awards go one step further — they give students the opportunity to actually create it.





**INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AWARDS FOR ALL SCHOOL STUDENTS!**

2026 YBMA

Choose from 6 categories:
Innovation, Community, Sustainability,
Start Up Business, Business Idea, STEAM.
WIN cash + mentorship



Entries
due
Nov 2



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Innovation Award

An idea that is so original/out of the box we can't believe you thought of it! Something that could have global impact- think big for this one!



Community Project

We are looking for something that will improve the lives of our local community, whether it is up and running now and we can see its positive benefits - or an idea for something that should be happening in the Hunter region.



Sustainability Award

Step lightly on the earth and think of something feasible to implement that will help our local environment.



Start up Business

Got a business already up and running? Pitch it to us!



Business Idea

An original concept or idea for a business that has mass appeal. Think of a creative solution to a problem that we will all want to buy from you!



STEAM Award

This is for the best product or prototype that is designed or engineered and could be manufactured or handmade. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics.



Teacher Innovation

Recognising teachers for their most innovative school project, process or educational initiative in the classroom.



ADDITIONAL AWARDS

Primary School Award

This award is for younger participants who submit a project in any category. You can also take out the other prizes as well!

Most Creative Video

Wow us with your videography skills and be creative with your pitch!

Encouragement Award

This will be awarded to a person or team that we think deserves to be acknowledged for their fabulous attempt!

Young Business Mind of the Year

This award goes to the absolute standout of the competition!

PRIZES!



School or Independent?

Participants in 2026 are required to specify if they are entering as part of their school or independently of school. If they are entering as part of their school, the school will win cash and a school trophy, if they are entering independently, the school will not receive any prizes.

Mentorship

All winners will be given the opportunity to be mentored by industry professionals appropriate to their project.

STEPS TO ENTER:

1

🔥 Explore the online resources to learn more about categories, business models, how to pitch & idea creation.
🔥 HOT TIP - Watch videos from past winners.

2

🔥 Create your BIG IDEA, practice your pitch and film your 2 – 4 min video.
🔥 HOT TIP - Upload to Youtube so it's easy to send a link.

3

🔥 Enter your BIG IDEA into the awards before 2 November.
🔥 HOT TIP - Don't leave it til the last minute!

4

🔥 Attend the awards ceremony in November to find out if you've won!
🔥 HOT TIP - you're a winner just by entering!

What This Looks Like in Action

Thread Watt

Turning fashion waste into power; where every step
lights the world.





**Get started on your
BIG IDEA now!**



**Check out the resources on our website at:
www.careerlinks.nsw.edu.au**