

Leadership Competition Criteria

Eligibility Criteria

- Female identifying or non-binary students who are in Grades/Years 10, 11 or 12 in 2026;
- Be 16 years of age by Power Trip in November 2026.
- Attend a school, receive home education or attend TAFE.
- Reside in regional, remote or rural Australia. *To help identify this, use **Modified Monash Model**. Entrants who attend a boarding school must reside in a regional, remote, or rural location when not at school (i.e. their permanent home address must be outside of a metropolitan area).*
- For students from Australian external territories, the Indian Ocean Territories of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Norfolk Island, the Jervis Bay Territory, the Ashmore and Cartier Islands, and the Coral Sea Islands, are eligible to apply.

Entrants from these territories will be considered together with entrants from the following states for marking and eligibility purposes:

Area	State
Indian Ocean Territories of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Ashmore and Cartier Islands	Western Australia
Norfolk Island	New South Wales
Coral Sea Islands	Queensland

Entry Process

The 2026 Leadership Competition will be asking our entrants to submit a choice of a written piece, video response, art piece or pitch of a product or service. Your chosen piece is to be inspired by our 2026 theme “What does the future of health look like in your community?”

Entries can be submitted in the following formats:

- Written response: 450 - 600 word limit, and submitted as a pdf document.

*Example: **2025 Winner Mariam Nabizada***

- Video: 3-4 minute response. Video must include the participant or their voice narration. Video must be submitted via a private or public YouTube account with the link provided as part of the submission. A landscape (horizontal) view is preferred.

*Example: **2025 Winner Caitlin Evans***

- Art: An art piece or graphic design accompanied by 300-450 word response justifying the piece in the context of the competition question. The artwork must be scanned or photographed and attached as a jpeg or pdf as part of the submission.

*Example: **2024 Winner Mylee Taylor***

- Pitch of product or service: This can be submitted as a powerpoint or pdf document.

*Example: **2025 Winner Jessica John***

*Entries must be submitted in English and these entries must be submitted individually.

All entries must be submitted via the Country to Canberra Leadership Competition Entry Portal by 11.59 pm Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST) on Sunday, 28 June 2026. Please note that Country to Canberra reserves the right to disqualify any entry that is received after the aforementioned time and date.

Prize Details

Our 2026 Leadership Competition winners will get the following fantastic prize:

All expenses paid Power Trip to Canberra, including:

1. Leadership and Empowerment Training
2. Networking Opportunities
3. Careers Coaching

Other incredible perks include:

- Access to our exclusive Alumni Network, and additional networking opportunities
- An inspiring winners pack, full of merchandise, resources, information, and goodies!
- Winning entries will be published on the Country to Canberra website, as well as by our sponsors and key partners to provide national exposure.

Judging and Winner Selection

- All entries will be judged and marked as per the eligibility criteria and marking criteria.
- Entries will be shortlisted by the Country to Canberra volunteer marking team. The winners will then be selected by a marking panel of industry professionals.

Notification and Announcement

- Winners of the competition will receive a phone call from a Country to Canberra volunteer in August.
- Unsuccessful entries will be notified via email.
- Announcements of winners will be advertised via social media and media in September.

Publication

- The winning entries will be published on the Country to Canberra website.
- The winning entries may be used in social media, media releases etc. as appropriate.