



Skills and Workforce
Ministerial Council

National Foundation Skills Strategy 2025–2035

Our plan to improve the skills of Australian adults

Easy Read version



How to use this strategy



The Australian, state and territory governments wrote this strategy together.

When you read the word 'we' it means:

- the Australian Government
- state and territory governments.



We wrote some words in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean.

There is also a list of these words on page 24.



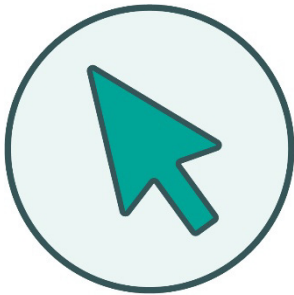
You can ask someone you trust for support to:

- read this document
- find more information.



This is an Easy Read summary of the full strategy.

It only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the full strategy on our website.

[www.dewr.gov.au/national-skills-agreement/
resources/national-foundation-skills-strategy-
20252035](http://www.dewr.gov.au/national-skills-agreement/resources/national-foundation-skills-strategy-20252035)

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About the strategy



This is the National Foundation Skills Strategy 2025–2035.

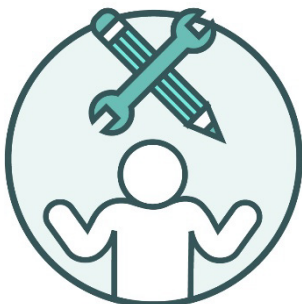
We just call it the strategy.



The strategy explains how we will make sure adults in Australia have the right skills for the future.



This includes how we can meet the needs of First Nations people.



Research shows that around **3 million adults** in Australia don't have the foundation skills they need.

Foundation skills

Foundation skills are important skills that support how you:



- work in a job



- study and learn



- take part in the community.

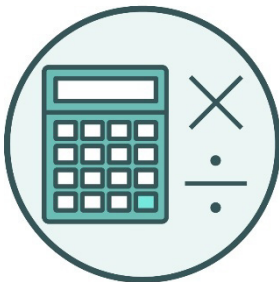
Foundation skills include:



- listening and talking



- reading and writing



- using maths



- using digital tools, like computers



- skills you need to work in most jobs.

For example:



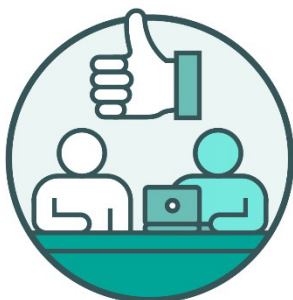
- finding new ways to do things



- fixing problems



- planning



- working well with a team.

Building foundation skills can improve your life
by giving you more ways to take part in your:



- family



- community



- workplace.



These skills can also help you keep learning
for your whole life.

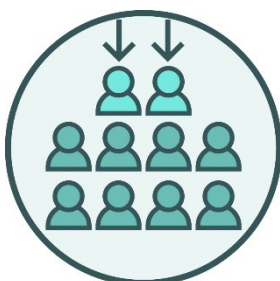
Skills in Australia



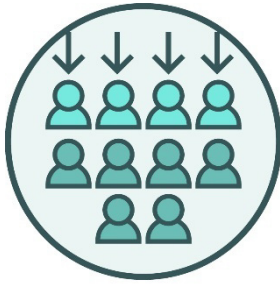
Building skills in adults is very important for Australia.



Having low foundation skills can make it harder for people to take part in different areas of their lives.



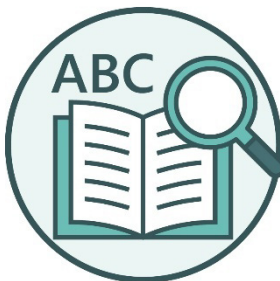
Research shows that around **2 in 10** of all Australian adults have low foundation skills.



Around **4 in 10** of all First Nations people have low foundation skills.



This can be as high as **7 in 10** for First Nations people who live far away from towns and cities.



But this research is only about skills in English.

First Nations people might have different levels of skill in other languages.

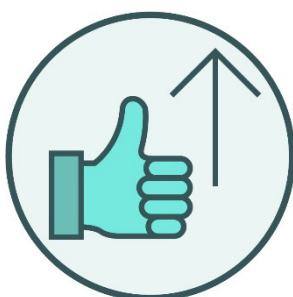


We offer services to support people to get the foundation skills they need across Australia.



These services are:

- free
- or
- low cost.



We want to make these services even better.

What we heard



We heard from:

- the community
- foundation skills experts.



They told us about issues that are stopping adults from building foundation skills.

Getting training



We heard that it can be hard for people to find support and training that is right for them.

This might be because:



- people don't know who to ask for help



- some people don't learn well online



- there isn't any in-person training close to where some people live.



We heard it can be hard for some people to ask for support.

They might:



- feel embarrassed



- not want people to know they need support.

Training that works well



We heard that people want support and training that works well for them.

Support and training work best when they are:



- interesting for each person



- made to fit into each person's life.

Planning for the future



We also heard that we need better ways to provide training in foundation skills.

For example, how we teach foundation skills in:



- the community



- training organisations.



This also includes better ways for governments to work together.

Training that respects First Nations cultures



Culture is someone's way of life and what they believe.



We heard First Nations people need support and training that respects their culture.



For example, training in First Nations languages.



First Nations people should be involved in creating training that works best for them.

Not enough teachers



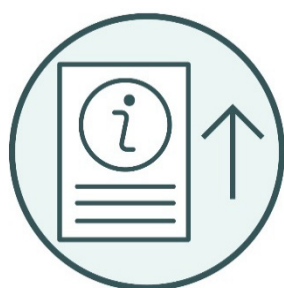
We heard there's not enough teachers with the right skills to support and train adults.



This makes it harder to build foundation skills in Australia.

This is a bigger issue for places far away from cities and towns.

Information about foundation skills



We heard that we need more information about foundation skills in Australia.

More information will help us:



- know what to spend money on



- make better plans and rules.

What we want to achieve



We want foundation skills training to be **accessible**.

When training is accessible, it's easy to:

- find and use
- understand.



We want support and training that focuses on what each person needs.



This means each person can get support and training in a way that works best for them.



We want support and training to respect different cultures.

This includes First Nations cultures.



We want to have enough workers who know how to support and train people with low foundation skills.

This includes:



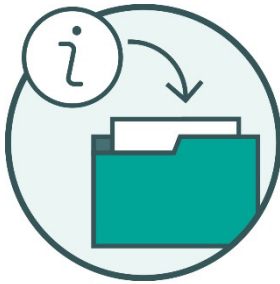
- connecting workers across Australia



- supporting workers to share their skills



- making sure workers have up-to-date training tools.



We want to learn more information about foundation skills in Australia.



This will help us check what:

- works well
- needs to work better.

What we will do next



We will create an action plan.

Our action plan will explain how we will achieve our goal in the next **10 years**.



We will work together to make sure the action plan helps different communities.



We will also work with First Nations people to think about actions that work best for them.

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this strategy mean.



Accessible

When training is accessible, it's easy to:

- find and use
- understand.



Culture

Culture is someone's way of life and what they believe.



Foundation skills

Foundation skills are important skills that support how you:

- learn
- work
- take part in your community.

Contact us



You can call us.

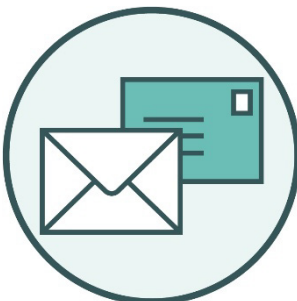
1300 488 064

Ask for the Foundation Skills Branch.



You can send us an email.

customerserviceline@dewr.gov.au



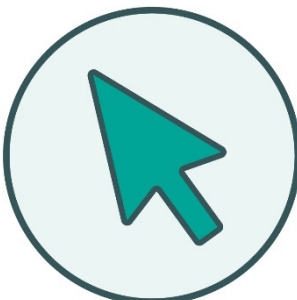
You can write to us.

Foundation Skills Branch

Department of Employment and
Workplace Relations

GPO Box 9828

Canberra ACT 2601



You can visit our website.

www.dewr.gov.au/foundation-skills



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