



Australian Government  
Department of Education and Training

real skills for  
real careers



# FACT SHEET

## FOUNDATION SKILLS

The Australian Government supports the development of foundation skills through vocational education and training (VET) so that individuals are equipped with the language, literacy, numeracy and employability skills required by businesses.

### QUICK FACTS

The OECD's most recent *Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies* (PIAAC) survey for Australia, which measures adult skills and competencies, found that in 2011-12, adults in Australia showed above-average proficiency in literacy and problem solving in technology-rich environments, and average proficiency in numeracy compared with adults in the other countries participating in the survey.

### FOUNDATION SKILLS

Foundation skills are fundamental to a person's participation in the workplace, the community and in education and training. They are a combination of language, literacy and numeracy (LLN) skills and employability skills.

### Foundation Skills

#### LLN Skills

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing
- Digital literacy
- Use of mathematical ideas

#### Employability skills

These are skills required for participation in modern workplaces and contemporary life, and include skills such as:

- Collaboration
- Problem solving
- Self-management
- Learning
- Information and communication technology.

### NATIONAL FOUNDATION SKILLS STRATEGY FOR ADULTS

In 2012 the Australian Government released the *National Foundation Skills Strategy for Adults* (the National Strategy), a ten-year framework endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments, to help adult learners develop



and maintain the foundation skills they need to participate.

The strategy identified the following key priority areas for action:

- Raising awareness of foundation skills
- Providing adult learners with high quality learning opportunities and outcomes
- Strengthening foundation skills in the workplace
- Building the capacity of education and training workforces to deliver foundation skills.

## FOUNDATION SKILLS IN UNITS OF COMPETENCY

A key outcome arising from the National Strategy has been the explicit inclusion of foundation skills into units of competency. It is now a mandatory requirement that units of competency describe the language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential to performance in the unit. The following foundation skills are typically described in units of competency:

### Foundation Skills in units of competency

#### LLN Skills

- Learning
- Reading
- Writing
- Oral communication
- Numeracy

#### Employability skills

- Navigate the world of work
- Interact with others
- Get the work done

## MEASURING SUCCESS

The Australian and state and territory governments set an aspirational target for the strategy – that by 2022, at least two thirds of working age Australians will have the literacy and numeracy skills needed to take full advantage of opportunities afforded by Australia's new economy.

## KEY WEBSITES

- Australian Government Department of Education and Training  
<https://www.education.gov.au/>
- National Centre for Vocational Education Research  
<https://www.ncver.edu.au/>
- VOCEDplus.  
<http://www.voced.edu.au/>

## RELATED TOPICS

- Registered Training Organisations
- Training Products.

[myskills.gov.au](https://myskills.gov.au)

**I WILL  
SUCCEED  
MY WAY.**

There are many ways to succeed. Do it your way with Vocational Education and Training.





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# FAQS

# FOUNDATION

# SKILLS

## WHAT ARE FOUNDATION SKILLS?

Foundation skills are fundamental to a person's participation in the workplace, the community and in education and training. They are a combination of language, literacy and numeracy (LLN) skills and employability skills.

## WHAT IS THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DOING TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF FOUNDATION SKILLS?

Information on Australian Government funding for programs and initiatives to support the development of foundation skills is available on the department's website. More information is available via the following links:

- Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) Program
- Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP)
- Reading Writing Hotline.

[myskills.gov.au](https://myskills.gov.au)

