

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.

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.

AUSTRALIAN TRAINING AWARDS

The Australian Training Awards are the peak national awards for the VET sector, recognising individuals, businesses and RTOs for their contribution to skilling Australia. The awards are held annually, and the following category is available in Foundation Skills:

- Excellence in Language, Literacy and Numeracy Practice Award

More information about the Australian Training Awards can be found on pages 38-39.

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/>

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