

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

Skill Up

What is Skill Up?

Skill Up is one of eight programs that make up the Queensland Government's successful *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative. The initiative has become permanent with \$80 million each year ongoing to support up to 15,000 Queenslanders into work.

In 2025-26, up to \$4 million in funding is available through Skill Up to assist up to 1,250 adults 25 years and older to upskill or reskill in entry level positions in high priority industries to maximise existing and future job opportunities.

The program offers tailored assistance and industry focussed training to adult job seekers to help them get started on new career paths. It will also ensure that individuals who have traditionally been disadvantaged in the labour market, develop the skills that will assist them to either retrain or source employment in less favourable economic conditions.

Skill Up is administered by the Department of Trade, Employment and Training (DTET).

Who does it support?

Skill Up primarily targets Queensland residents 25 years and older who are ineligible for Australian Government employment services or assistance.

Individuals accessing Australian Government services are eligible if they are disadvantaged and require complementary services, regardless of the length of time they have been unemployed or in receipt of assistance.

Who can apply for funding?

Non-profit community-based organisations, registered for GST, are eligible for funding.

Applicant organisations must have experience in delivering services in the location in which they are applying and must be able to demonstrate a commitment to access and equity principles, as well as an ability to provide appropriate support services to participants.

The training and assessment services component of the funded project must be delivered by a registered training organisation (RTO) that has Queensland Government Skills Assure supplier ([SAS](#)) status.

If an applicant organisation is not a SAS, they will need to partner with one for the project. To search for RTOs with SAS status, visit the [Queensland Skills Gateway](#).

What is funded?

Skill Up funds organisations to support disadvantaged adult job seekers to undertake formal training to gain nationally recognised skills and vocational qualifications. Assistance and training may include:

- case management
- resume preparation and writing
- job interview skills
- job search advice, including where to look for work, how to apply for work, and understanding employer expectations
- support costs such as learner driver training, subsidised travel, personal grooming or counselling services
- networking opportunities with local businesses and employers to share their experiences and industry knowledge
- work experience opportunities with local businesses and employers
- employability skills, such as communication in the workplace, working in a team, problem solving, planning and organising, and self-management.

The delivery of projects should be tailored to a participant's circumstances.

Skill Up funds the tailored support that must accompany the delivery of training within a community-based setting and also the student co-contribution fees.

Skill Up projects focus on the attainment of certificate III qualifications, however certain skill sets and lower level qualifications recognised as an appropriate entry level pathway in some industries may be funded.

Skill Up projects are expected to target high priority industries with entry-level skill shortages. Partnerships with local employers for work experience opportunities are encouraged.

Under Skill Up, every participant is required to be enrolled in nationally recognised training.

What level of funding is available?

The funding available is for a maximum 12 month term. The level of funding is dependent on the type of project and nature of the training and assistance to be provided, as well as the number of participants targeted by the project.

What is the application process?

Funding for Skill Up is available through an open and transparent application process.

There are two funding rounds each financial year.

Details of the opening and closing dates for funding rounds, as well as program guidelines and online application details, can be found at <https://desbt.qld.gov.au/training/community-orgs/sqw/skill-up>.

Applicant organisations are encouraged to contact their local DTET regional office to discuss their project proposals.

How are applications assessed?

Applications are assessed against set assessment criteria, including the applicant organisation's capacity to manage the proposed project, and the extent to which the project will service community and industry needs. Information on the assessment criteria is available in the Skill Up Guidelines for Funding 2025-26.

Applications will be assessed by locally-based SQW Advisory Committees, comprising of representatives from the community, industry, government and unions.

What can project funds be used for?

Project funds can only be expended on costs directly associated with the delivery of the project. More information is available in the Skill Up Guidelines for Funding 2025-26.

Ineligible costs

Some costs such as the purchase of assets, interstate travel and recurrent organisation costs are not eligible for funding under the program. More information is available in the Skill Up Guidelines for Funding 2025-26.

What outcomes are expected?

Funded organisations will be required to identify what employment, further education and/or training targets will be achieved throughout the project.

Skill Up has standard key performance indicators which organisations are expected to meet or exceed on training completions and employment outcomes.

What are the funding conditions?

Successful applicants must enter into a formal services agreement with DTET, which will include standard key performance indicators.

A copy of the services agreement, which is performance based and outlines the standard terms and conditions of funding, can be found at <https://desbt.qld.gov.au/training/community-orgs/sqw/skill-up>.

All projects must be fully acquitted after completion and any unexpended or surplus funds returned to DTET.

More information

For more information about Skill Up:

Phone: 1300 369 935

Email: training@desbt.qld.gov.au

Visit: <https://desbt.qld.gov.au/training/community-orgs/sqw/skill-up>