

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

Get Set for Work

Guidelines for funding 2024–25

The *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative continues to achieve on social, economic and fiscal fronts, with an ongoing investment of \$80 million to support up to 15,000 Queenslanders into work each year.

The initiative represents a commitment to increasing workforce participation, driving job growth and strengthening the performance of the Queensland economy by improving skills development and work opportunities for disadvantaged Queenslanders.

Ever evolving, *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* is flexible in design and delivery and has been revitalised to accommodate the changing labour market conditions as a result of COVID-19.

The initiative comprises the following suite of programs:

- Community Work Skills
- Work Skills Traineeships
- Get Set for Work
- Ready for Work
- Youth Skills
- Community Foundation Skills
- Skill Up
- First Start

Overview and objectives

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of support for those in the community most vulnerable to reduced employment opportunities.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work is the proactive means for increasing Queensland's workforce participation and the overall performance of the Queensland economy by directly and positively engaging those outside of or disadvantaged in the labour market.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work represents the Queensland Government's commitment to support strategies that encourage equitable participation by a broad range of marginalised groups that generally

face barriers or challenges to their participation in skills development and the labour market.

In 2024-25, disadvantaged Queenslanders will benefit from targeted training pathways that help to ensure they gain the skills they need to find new jobs. The Queensland Government is working to identify current and future sustainable employment and skills needs, aligned to economic and social development and creating relevant training opportunities to meet those needs.

Training that improves an individual's skill level, employment prospects and social inclusion is a priority for the Queensland Government.

Get Set for Work

Get Set for Work is one of eight programs that make up the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative. The program aims to provide young people aged 15–19 years with nationally recognised training, combined with integrated learning support and core skills that will enable them to successfully transition to participate productively in employment and/or further education and training.

Young people in the labour market are particularly vulnerable and are more sensitive to economic fluctuations. Supporting transitions of young people from school to higher education, training and employment is critical to maximising their future workforce participation.

Get Set for Work complements the [Certificate 3 Guarantee](#), Queensland's training entitlement program, by providing supported training places.

In 2024-25, up to \$7.75 million will be available to organisations to assist up to 2,000 disadvantaged young people transition to the workforce, undertake further education and training, or return to school.

Applicant organisations are encouraged to offer flexible projects that can be customised to meet individual needs.

Get Set for Work is administered by the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT).



Where will the program be delivered?

Get Set for Work will be available throughout Queensland, however, priority will be given to identified areas of high need or where access to services may be limited due to market failure.

Who can apply for funding?

Non-profit community-based organisations are eligible for funding. Applicant organisations must be registered for GST.

Applicant organisations must be able to demonstrate a commitment to access and equity principles, as well as an ability to provide appropriate support services.

Applicant organisations must have experience in delivering services in the location in which they are applying.

Where a case can be proven that a government priority cannot be met by an eligible organisation, other organisations may be considered for funding, at the discretion of DESBT.

Funding is not available for government agencies.

Who will the funds support?

Get Set for Work primarily targets young Queensland residents aged 15-19 years 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.

Priority will be given to young people who are no longer enrolled and have already left school.

Eligible participants include young people who are:

- aged 15-19 years, including those in and transitioned from out-of-home care
- an Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident (includes humanitarian entrant), temporary resident with the necessary visa and work permits on the pathway to permanent residency or a New Zealand citizen.

For school students considered at risk of disengaging from school, other learning options and school-based pathways should be explored prior to consideration of Get Set for Work. The program is a suitable option for a young person who, despite school-based interventions, remains determined to leave school or has already disengaged from school and is unlikely to be able to find employment without assistance.

Get Set for Work is not to be used by schools as a punitive action or as a behaviour management strategy.

The selection of participants for assistance is at the discretion of the funded organisation, subject to the above eligibility criteria and in consultation with DESBT. Permission to recruit participants outside of the above criteria needs to be sought from DESBT. Get Set for Work is to be delivered at no cost to participants.

What assistance can be funded?

Get Set for Work is not a general education program. It maintains a clear focus on the attainment of nationally recognised qualifications in demand by local employers.

Get Set for Work has a project-based delivery model and funds local organisations to deliver customised training opportunities which include:

- nationally recognised training to gain qualifications (including foundation skills) up to certificate III level and delivered in a community-based setting
- integrated learner support including career advice, job preparation skills and case management to accompany the delivery of training within a community-based setting.

Get Set for Work will fund the tailored support that must accompany the delivery of training and the student co-contribution fees. Training and assessment services under Get Set for Work are funded under the Certificate 3 Guarantee.

Get Set for Work will have a focus on the eventual attainment of certificate III qualifications, however, certain skill sets are recognised as an appropriate entry level pathway for young learners in some industries. Funding is also available for the delivery of lower-level preparatory and pre-vocational courses and language, literacy and numeracy skills contextualised to the qualification and vocational area.

Under Get Set for Work, every participant must be enrolled in priority training as listed in the [Priority Skills List](#) or in other training that has been approved by DESBT as a priority through the application and assessment process.

Delivery should be tailored to meet individual needs and local circumstances through a range of training-related activities. Practical learning activities that support the delivery of nationally recognised training may include (but not be limited to):

- recreational activities or team building exercises
- adventure based-learning
- work experience or volunteering
- workplace or employer visits
- social and community-based activities
- guest or motivational speakers
- learner driver training.

Training and support plans

A training and support plan is to be developed for each participant and individually tailored for the acquisition of foundation skills embedded in the learning support. Foundation skills refer to the core capabilities required for effective workplace and community participation which include language, literacy, numeracy and employability skills.

Training and support plans must be developed based on an upfront skills assessment and available training options.

Program delivery must respond to participant needs with strategies to overcome any barriers identified in the training and support plans. This includes links and referrals to appropriate specialist or support services addressing personal, health and social issues, assistance to gain qualifications (including foundation skills) up to certificate III level with accompanying career advice, job preparation skills and case management.

Scope of registration

Registered training organisations (RTOs) must be Skills Assure suppliers ([SAS](#)) approved by DESBT to deliver training.

Applicant organisations will need to partner with a RTO with SAS status for the accompanying delivery of training and assessment services.

Qualifications and units of competency to be delivered must be nationally recognised and included in the RTO's scope of registration at the time of submitting the application for funding.

Specific requirements

Get Set for Work providers must:

- have a strong local presence including well-established community and employer relationships
- be able to demonstrate proven experience and success in assisting young people
- have documented anti-cyberbullying policies and procedures on prevention, intervention and responding to bullying and cyberbullying
- liaise closely with local referral agencies, other youth organisations and registered training organisations to identify participants
- deliver outside an institutional setting – experience shows that this cohort prefers a community-based setting environment that is able to link them into employment or back to learning and training
- deliver projects throughout the year
- flexible entry, exit and re-entry points for participants to allow young people maximum access

- avoid duplication of services in the local area – be aware of, and satisfied, that other youth programs and options are complementary to the Get Set for Work project.

What outcomes are expected?

Funded organisations will be required to identify what employment, further education and/or training and return to school targets will be achieved throughout Get Set for Work.

Get Set for Work has standard key performance indicators (KPIs) that organisations are expected to meet or exceed.

KPIs:

- Completion outcome – 65 per cent of participants successfully gain the required outcome of a qualification or statement of attainment
- Positive outcome – 55 per cent of participants successfully gain employment, enter further education and/or training, or return to school.

What is the application process?

Generally, there are two funding rounds each year under a transparent contestable application process.

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

One lead organisation is to apply for and manage the funding for each project. Applications are capped at ten per organisation, per funding round, across all programs.

Projects that address emergent needs or government priorities may be funded by DESBT outside of the published funding rounds.

The application and selection process, and assessment criteria, may be varied or discontinued by DESBT as required at any time and for any reason, in its sole discretion.

Without limitation, DESBT may, in its sole discretion:

- apply such criteria and weightings as DESBT sees fit
- for applications considered ambiguous, erroneous or incomplete, refuse to consider the application or request further information from the applicant, as DESBT sees fit
- not accept any application.

DESBT may also decide to accept, suspend or not proceed with, or carry out itself all or any part of the project proposals included in an application.

Funding rounds will be announced on the [Get Set for Work webpage](#). Interested organisations are advised to check this page regularly.

Organisations should apply online via the [Get Set for Work webpage](#) by the closing deadline. Incomplete applications and applications received after published closing dates will be ineligible for consideration.

How will applications be assessed?

Applications will be assessed by DESBT in two stages.

Stage one

The stage one assessment will involve the assessment of applications by DESBT against the 'capacity to manage' criteria. An applicant must demonstrate a 'capacity to manage' for the application to be determined by DESBT as eligible to proceed to stage two assessment.

Stage two

The stage two assessment involves assessing eligible applications against the assessment criteria below by DESBT and locally-based SQW Advisory Committees comprising of representatives from the community, industry, government and unions.

The role of these committees will be to discuss, prioritise and recommend applications for funding to DESBT. Applicants should note that:

- the order of the list of assessment criteria is not to be taken as an order of precedence or an indication of weighting which will be given to any particular criteria; and
- the list of assessment criteria is not necessarily exhaustive and DESBT may also consider other criteria in its sole discretion.

Following the completion of both stages of assessment for a funding round, DESBT will notify each applicant of its decision in relation to the application.

Assessment criteria	How will this be assessed – including but not limited to:
Capacity to manage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • financial viability of the lead organisation • lead organisation’s structure, governance, risk management and reporting framework • relevant experience, and current and past performance, in managing government funds and delivering similar services • staff with appropriate experience and qualifications for supporting disadvantaged job seekers and learners • recruitment strategies • commitment to access and equity principles • training delivery outside an institutional setting and in a community-based environment
Servicing community and industry needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear articulation of how the project will address gaps in or complement existing local services • level of community benefit • no duplication with other programs or services • evidence to support the organisation’s strong community presence within the local area • links to local employers, industry or other stakeholders to identify local skills shortages and future employment opportunities • demonstrated industry demand and benefit • clear rationale for linking particular learner groups to specific job types and industries where there is evidence of skills shortages or labour needs
Strategies to assist participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support mechanisms that specifically address the individual’s learning needs and goals • support mechanisms to encourage completion of qualifications and skill sets • specialist assistance or links with other agencies to help disadvantaged job seekers overcome barriers to learning and employment • training and assessment strategies that support the needs of disadvantaged learners • ability to provide effective training and realistic learning pathways in terms of method, location and timing of delivery • volume of learning sufficient to ensure disadvantaged learners gain all relevant skills and knowledge • strategies to motivate participants to complete their training and take up local job opportunities • level of job search activities and post-placement support methods
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • level of qualification completions, further education or training and employment outcomes forecasted, and demonstrated evidence of ability to achieve quality outcomes • past employment outcomes • capacity to meet skills shortages and local labour market needs – extent of support and links with local employers and industry that will facilitate placement into employment
Cost/value for money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cost effectiveness – cost of proposal and overall cost per participant and outcome • ability to deliver proposed outcomes over the period being applied for, and any identified innovative ways to reduce the costs of service delivery • level of complementary funding and assistance accessed from other sources and in-kind resources.

What level of funding is available?

The funding available under Get Set for Work 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 can project funds be used for?

Project funds can only be expended on costs directly associated with the delivery of the project including:

- wages and on-costs for project coordinator and other delivery staff
- co-contribution fees which may also cover training costs for approved qualifications and skill sets not funded on the Priority Skills List
- administration costs such as rent, accommodation, venue hire, office supplies, advertising, travel costs, vehicle hire/lease
- support costs such as learner driver training, subsidised travel, personal grooming or counselling services
- materials and equipment excluding capital equipment or assets
- overheads or operating costs (with the management fee not to exceed five per cent of total funds up to a maximum \$15,000).

Ineligible costs

Project funds cannot be used:

- to purchase assets/capital equipment e.g. IT equipment, buildings or vehicles
- for interstate travel, training or conferences for project staff
- for any recurrent or normal business costs such as established positions within the organisation or core functions of the organisation.

Funding from other sources must also be disclosed to DESBT.

To avoid duplication of services, funding is not available for the same services being delivered through other initiatives or programs (e.g. Australian Government's Transition to Work service or the Queensland Government's Transition 2 Success program).

Any third party contributions must be specified in the project application to enable clear consideration of all funding, resources and in-kind support provided. Any addition of resources or subcontracting of learner support measures post project approval must be approved in writing by DESBT.

What are the funding conditions?

Successful applicants must enter into a formal Services Agreement with DESBT, which will include standard key performance indicators.

A first payment will be made once the Services Agreement has been executed, and no sooner than 30 days prior to the start of the project. Subsequent payments are made upon satisfactory compliance with all reporting requirements and the acquittal of expenditure of the previous payment. Monthly reports will be required throughout the life of the project.

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

A copy of the Services Agreement, which is performance based and outlines the standard terms and conditions of funding, is available on the [Get Set for Work webpage](#).

Appeals process

Organisations may request a review of a decision made by DESBT in relation to the provision of funding under Get Set for Work.

The appeals process has been established to help identify any problems in the application process, ensuring these processes continue to improve, and to assist with future applications.

Appeals must be lodged in writing to:

Appeals Officer
Investment Division
Department of Employment, Small Business and Training
PO Box 15483
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Organisations will be notified in writing of the appeal outcome within 21 business days from receipt of the appeal.

More information

For more information about Get Set for Work:

Phone: 1300 369 935
Email: training@desbt.qld.gov.au
Visit: desbt.qld.gov.au/training/community-orgs/funded/sqw/get-set-for-work

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