

## Skilling Queenslanders for Work

The *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative continues to achieve on social, economic and fiscal fronts, with an ongoing annual 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.

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

Tailored, local community-based support is offered to young people, mature-age job seekers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with disability, women re-entering the workforce, Australian Defence Force (ADF) veterans, recently released prisoners, and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work is characterised by:

- clearly defined target groups
- voluntary participation
- individual pathways
- integrated mix of assistance
- strong support for participants.

The initiative is supported by a state-wide regional network working closely and forming partnerships with community-based organisations and local employers to determine local skills and entry-level industry and labour needs.

There are eight programs that make up the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative.

### Community Work Skills

Funds community-based organisations to deliver tailored support and assistance to participants to help them gain nationally recognised skills and qualifications. This includes a mix of career advice, job preparation skills, foundation skills and individual case management.

In 2025-26, \$10 million will be available under the Community Work Skills program to assist disadvantaged Queenslanders to gain nationally recognised qualifications up to certificate III and build skills that will maximise their local job opportunities.

### Work Skills Traineeships

Funds paid work placements on community, public works and environmental projects for up to six months. Participants undertake a Work Skills Traineeship (Certificate I in Business, Construction, Conservation and Ecosystem Management, Hospitality or Retail Services) that integrates vocational skills with on-the-job training.

In 2025-26, \$37.35 million will be available under the Work Skills Traineeships program to assist long-term unemployed and disadvantaged Queenslanders to develop the skills and experience needed to gain employment.

### Ready for Work

Funds community-based organisations and school Parents and Citizens' and Parents and Friends' associations to deliver basic job preparation and employability skills courses up to 6–8 weeks to unemployed job seekers to get them ready for work.

In 2025-26, \$4 million will be available under the Ready for Work program to assist disadvantaged Queenslanders get back to work sooner.

### Get Set for Work

Funds community-based organisations to deliver intensive employment and training assistance over 12 months to 15–19 year old early school leavers and disadvantaged young people to transition them to the workforce, undertake further education and training or return to school.

In 2025-26, \$7.5 million will be available to help disadvantaged young people under the Get Set for Work program.



## Youth Skills

Funds community-based organisations to assist 15-24 year olds engaged with Youth Justice or Queensland Corrective Services or the Queensland Police Service, to undertake nationally recognised training and provide integrated learner support.

In 2025-26, \$3.5 million will be available under the Youth Skills program to assist young people.

## Community Foundation Skills

Funds community-based organisations to deliver customised foundation skills training to disadvantaged Queenslanders with low level language, literacy, numeracy and digital (LLND) skills.

In 2025-26, \$5 million will be available to support disadvantaged Queenslanders and under-utilised workers to develop the foundation skills required to pursue their career aspirations and support transitions to further training, employment or improved job roles.

## Skill Up

Funds community-based organisations, including not-for-profit peak industry bodies, to provide tailored assistance and industry focussed training to adult job seekers aged 25 years and over to help them get started on new career paths.

In 2025-26, \$4 million will be available to support adults 25 years and older to upskill or reskill in entry level positions in high priority industries to maximise existing and future job opportunities.

## First Start

Provides wage subsidies to local councils and community-based organisations to employ additional trainees. The program offers opportunities for young people and disadvantaged job seekers to gain nationally recognised qualifications and 12 months employment by undertaking a traineeship.

In 2025-26, \$6 million will be available for local councils to create 300 new traineeships, and support 100 second year apprenticeships under the First Start program.

Further funding is also available for community-based organisations to create new traineeships.

## More information

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