

Skilling Queenslanders for Work Youth Skills

What is Youth Skills?

Youth Skills 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 \$3.5 million in funding is available to assist up to 700 people aged 15–24 years, who are engaged with, or at risk of engaging with, Youth Justice Services or Queensland Corrective Services, to gain nationally recognised skills and vocational qualifications up to and including a certificate III level.

The program encourages the use of adaptable and diverse approaches to effectively engage participants. Through a coordinated approach, learning barriers are identified and addressed, and participants are provided with coordinated and supported pathways into mainstream training, leading to further education and employment.

Youth Skills is administered by the Department of Trade, Employment and Training (DTET).

Who does it support?

Youth Skills targets young people who are engaged with Youth Justice, Queensland Corrective Services, or young people who are at risk of offending.

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.

Individuals who have completed the Queensland Government's *Transition 2 Success* program are also eligible for assistance.

Who can apply for funding?

Community-based not-for-profit organisations, registered for GST, are eligible for funding. Organisations with the relevant experience and capacity to work with young Queenslanders who are engaged with Youth Justice Services or Queensland Corrective Services or the Queensland Police Service are encouraged to apply for funding.

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

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?

Youth Skills funds organisations to deliver customised training opportunities that include:

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

Delivery methods should be tailored to meet individual needs and local circumstances through a range of training related activities.

The program focuses on the eventual attainment of full qualifications up to certificate III level, however certain skill sets and lower level qualifications recognised as an appropriate entry level pathway in some industries may be funded.

Youth Skills complements the Queensland Government's [Certificate 3 Guarantee](#).

Under Youth Skills, every participant will be enrolled in nationally recognised 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. The plans must be developed based on an upfront skills assessment and available training options.

Practical learning activities

Practical learning activities to motivate young people and 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.

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 Youth Skills 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/youth-skills>.

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 Youth Skills 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 Youth Skills 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 Youth Skills Guidelines for Funding 2025-26.

What outcomes are expected?

Youth Skills participants will gain nationally recognised qualifications and build skills that will maximise their ability to get a job in their local community. Outcomes for individuals will vary according to their learning pathway and goals.

As an initial outcome, it is anticipated that participants will achieve personal and social development improvements. These outcomes will equip participants with the foundation skills needed to progress to employment or further education and training.

Funded organisations will be assessed on the outcomes achieved against those specified in their application. Additional outcomes specific to identified community needs may be negotiated.

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/youth-skills>.

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

More information

For more information about Youth Skills:

Phone: 1300 369 935

Email: training@desbt.qld.gov.au

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