

SKILLING QUEENSLANDERS FOR WORK

dtet.qld.gov.au/sqw



as at August 2025

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 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 Queensland Government has refreshed Skilling Queenslanders for Work to deliver even better outcomes for job seekers, employers and the economy. The refreshed initiative includes strong input from employers, industry and community organisations, ensuring training is tailored to regional needs and supports the jobs Queenslanders need now.

With these changes, we will get the right training to the right people, in the right regions, for the jobs Queensland needs now.

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, peak industry associations and local employers to determine local skills and entry-level industry and labour needs.

There is a suite of targeted programs that make up the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative. These include:

Community Work Skills

Funds a range of not-for-profit organisations including community-based organisations, peak body associations, local councils and registered training organisations to deliver tailored support and employment assistance to participants to help them gain nationally recognised skills and qualifications and prepare for work.

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

A range of assistance can be funded from stand-alone projects delivering non-accredited short courses offering job preparation and job search activities to projects focusing on training pathways and delivering skill sets, lower-level qualifications and certificate III vocational qualifications.

Industry partnerships will be encouraged under the expanded Community Work Skills program. Flexible delivery models may be developed to determine alternative strategies for industry specific induction or pre-employment projects that connect employers to a diverse pool of people.

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 disengaged 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.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

Work Skills Traineeships

Funds paid work placements on community, social enterprise, construction and environmental projects for up to six months.

Participants undertake a Work Skills Traineeship (Certificate I in Workplace Skills (Business), Construction, Conservation and Ecosystem Management, Hospitality or Retail Services) that integrates vocational skills with on-the-job training.

Projects must be of benefit to the broader community.

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

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.

First Start

Provides wage subsidies to local councils and not-for-profit organisations to employ additional trainees and apprentices. The program offers opportunities for young people and disadvantaged job seekers to gain nationally recognised qualifications and 12-24 months of paid employment by undertaking a subsidised traineeship or apprenticeship.

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 under the First Start program for community-based organisations and peak body associations to create new traineeships.

More information

For more information about Skilling Queenslanders for Work:

Phone: 1300 369 935

Email: training@desbt.qld.gov.au

Visit: dtet.qld.gov.au/sqw