

New Language Literacy and Numeracy Taster Courses for newly retrenched and vulnerable workers

As part of the \$28.2 million Building the Basics package the Australian Government is investing in more language, literacy and numeracy training places for newly retrenched and vulnerable workers in areas hardest hit by the Global Financial Crisis.

The Government is investing \$0.95 million for an additional 250 training places through the delivery of new Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LLN) Taster Courses.

The 12 new Taster Courses to be delivered in 2009-10 will provide support to adults aged 25 or over who have low language, literacy and numeracy skills, which may prevent them from gaining sustainable employment or undertaking further education and training following retrenchment.

These taster courses will provide adults with an opportunity to connect with language, literacy and numeracy support, training and work.

What kind of training will a participant receive in a Language, Literacy and Numeracy Taster Course?

Participants will receive 6-8 weeks of relaxed, informal part-time training in a community based setting. The training will focus on fun activities e.g. cooking, coffee club etc with language, literacy and numeracy skills a key activity outcome. The courses will be positive and low-pressure to allow participants the opportunity to try the language, literacy and numeracy learning experience before committing to a more intensive learning environment.

Who will benefit from the Language, Literacy and Numeracy Taster Courses?

Adults aged 25 and over who have been retrenched or are vulnerable to retrenchment and: experiencing barriers to employment or further education and training due to a language, literacy and numeracy skills need and who have reservations about commencing a more intensive or structured language, literacy and numeracy program.

Likely participants in the course may include:

- Women and single parents aged 25 years and over who are in receipt of Centrelink parenting payments and will shortly return to the workforce and migrants subject to the two-year income support waiting period.
- Individuals who have been disconnected from the workforce and not registered as job seekers, and who have reservations about entering the education, training or employment market.
- Individuals experiencing barriers to employment or further education and training due to a language, literacy and numeracy skills need and who have reservations about commencing a more intensive or structured training program.
- Prospective employees with a capacity to benefit from language, literacy and numeracy training and who would benefit from this low pressure introduction prior to entering a more formal language, literacy and numeracy training program.
- When will the Language, Literacy and Numeracy Taster Courses be available?
Language, Literacy, and Numeracy Taster Courses are expected to be delivered from September 2009 to 30 June 2010.

Where will the Taster Courses be delivered?

Language, Literacy and Numeracy Taster Courses have been developed as a pilot program and courses will be delivered in targeted locations across Australia.

How will these training courses be delivered?

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations is planning to seek expressions of interest from training providers to conduct these Taster Courses. Information about the expression of interest will be made available as soon as possible.

How do people interested in participating in a Language, Literacy and Numeracy Taster Course find out more information?

More information about the Language Literacy and Numeracy Taster Courses will be made available from September this year.