

## **Extra training places to improve adult literacy for newly retrenched and vulnerable workers and Indigenous Australians**

### **A package of English language, literacy and numeracy initiatives to benefit adult Australians**

The Australian Government will invest \$52.8 million to improve adult English language, literacy and numeracy (LLN) skills.

The language, literacy and numeracy (LLN) package provides expanded and targeted access to training places for adults aged 25 and over who have been retrenched—or are vulnerable to retrenchment, as a result of the global recession—and for Indigenous Australians.

The package includes development for the LLN teaching workforce to ensure highly skilled and qualified practitioners are available to deliver adult literacy training.

By supporting workers with low literacy levels, the Government is making a strong contribution to lifting the skill base of individuals vulnerable during the global recession. Investing in a skilled workforce will also benefit employers and industry as the economy recovers.

Support for Indigenous Australians with low LLN levels will contribute to the Government's commitment to halving the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous employment outcomes within a decade.

The LLN package includes:

- \$21.3 million for an additional 4138 training places in the Language, Literacy and Numeracy Program (LLNP) in 2008–09 and 2009–10, to equip retrenched workers with the skills necessary to be competitive in the labour market
- \$3 million over three years for an additional 162 LLNP places for Indigenous Australians across nine Indigenous communities under the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER), using innovative community-based projects for delivery
- \$1 million for an additional 250 places in 2009–10 in the new Language, Literacy and Numeracy Taster Courses which will provide opportunities for adults to connect with LLN support, training and work
- \$2.2 million for an additional 1500 training places in 2009–10 to be made available to employers of vulnerable workers through the Workplace English Language and Literacy (WELL) program. The extra training places will assist workers in areas hardest hit by the global recession, to further enhance their employability
- \$21.6 million over four years to provide intensive, vocationally oriented LLN assistance through the WELL program for 6000 Indigenous Employment Program (IEP) participants
- \$3.7 million for workforce-development initiatives—including a comprehensive framework of LLN qualifications—to increase the number of qualified teachers to meet training needs and address shortages of trainers and practitioners in regional areas. Scholarships will also become available to assist up-skilling of LLN trainers and practitioners.

### **Who will benefit from the LLN package?**

The package will assist over 12 000 Australians to improve their LLN skills to enhance their employability and their access to further education and training.

Up to 50 Australians will benefit from a scholarship to assist them in gaining, or upgrading, their qualifications as a LLN trainer or practitioner.

Many more Australians will benefit from a more dependable supply of well qualified and competent LLN trainers and practitioners.

### **When and where will the extra training places be available?**

An additional 4138 training places in the LLNP are available now until 30 June 2010, although training may be completed in 2010–11. These extra training places will be available nationally.

The additional 162 LLNP places for Indigenous job seekers under the NTER will be rolled out in priority Indigenous communities from 1 July 2009 over a three year period.

Language, Literacy and Numeracy Taster Courses will be available from September 2009 in local areas hardest hit by the global recession.

The additional 1500 Workplace English Language and Literacy (WELL) training places will be available nationally from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 although training may be completed in 2010–11.

WELL training for IEP participants will be available nationally from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2013.

### **How will workforce development initiatives help Australians in the current economic environment?**

A strong LLN teaching workforce will ultimately increase opportunities for working-age Australians to develop the skills and qualifications they need to gain employment, keep a job or be promoted. This investment recognises that foundation skills such as LLN are not only important in building a skilled labour market, but are also critical in developing a socially inclusive society.

### **How will the new qualifications be developed, and when will the new qualification framework be available?**

Recent work on mapping existing qualifications and the current profile of the LLN workforce will guide the development of new qualifications, and competencies at all levels. This will commence immediately.

A reference group, drawn from experts within the existing LLN professional community, will advise on aspects of the initiative. Extensive stakeholder consultation will inform the development of the endorsed qualifications and training support materials.

### **When will the workforce development and scholarship opportunities be available?**

The new qualifications and support materials will be completed progressively from September 2009 to July 2011. Scholarships for LLN trainers and practitioners will be available from January 2010 to June 2011.

### **How can I find out further information on the package?**

Further information on the LLN initiatives will be available at [www.deewr.gov.au](http://www.deewr.gov.au).