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26Ten

Tasmanian

Adult Literacy Strategy

Implementation Plan

2026–2029





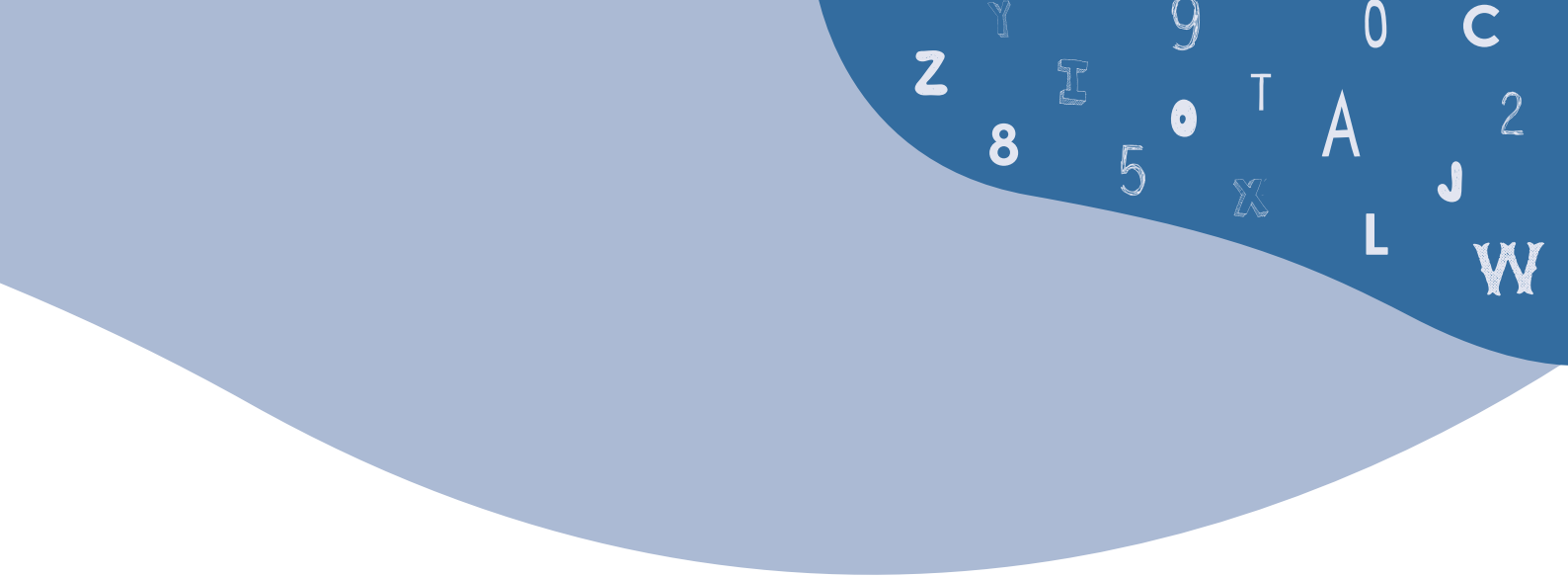
Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of Lutruwita, where Palawa have cared for their community and supported them throughout life.

Together we live, work, play and learn on the Land, Waterways and Sky that have been bound up with Aboriginal culture and identity for generations.

We honour Elders, past and present, and pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander colleagues, families and friends.

The Tasmanian Government commits to ensuring every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person is known, safe, well and learning.



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Introduction

The Tasmanian Adult Literacy Strategy – 26Ten 2026–2035 is Tasmania’s strategy to help adults build their literacy and numeracy skills for everyday life.

The Tasmanian Adult Literacy Strategy – Implementation Plan 2026–2029 is a companion document to the Strategy and outlines the broad actions for the first four years.

The two documents should be read together.



Oversight

The Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) is accountable for the Strategy.

It sits within the Tasmanian Government’s *Lifting Literacy Implementation Plan (2024–2026 and 2027–2029)* and *Strengthening Numeracy: Implementation Plan 2026–2028*.

A new Tasmanian Adult Literacy Advisory Group will oversee the Strategy. The Advisory Group brings together community voices, service providers and system partners to guide action and help lift literacy outcomes for all Tasmanians.

26Ten plays a critical role in implementing the Strategy with partners.



Definition

We define literacy as:

“Literacy involves listening, reading, viewing, speaking, writing, creating texts, and using language for different purposes in a range of contexts.

Literacy encompasses the knowledge and skills needed to access, understand, analyse, and evaluate information, make meaning, express thoughts and emotions, present ideas, opinions and interact with others.

It involves a continuum of learning to enable individuals to achieve their goals, to develop their knowledge and potential, and to participate fully in their community and wider society.”

(Lifting Literacy Implementation Plan 2024–2026)

Background

Australia's literacy proficiency

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development administer a survey called the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies, or OECD PIAAC. It looks at the reading, maths, problem-solving and workplace skills of adults aged 15 to 65.

More than 166,000 adults from Australia and 24 other countries took part in this survey in 2011.

The results, published in 2012, showed that Australia ranked:

- **4th for literacy skills**
- **6th for problem-solving skills in digital settings**
- **14th for numeracy skills**

The survey showed that, at the time:

Australia's literacy results were higher

than many other countries, including Canada, England, Northern Ireland, France and the United States of America.



People from non-English speaking backgrounds generally

had lower English literacy skills

than people who spoke English as their first language.



Australian workers' reading, writing, maths, problem-solving and computer

skills at work were slightly higher

than the international average.



Literacy skills were similar across most Australian states and territories,

except for the ACT which had higher results.



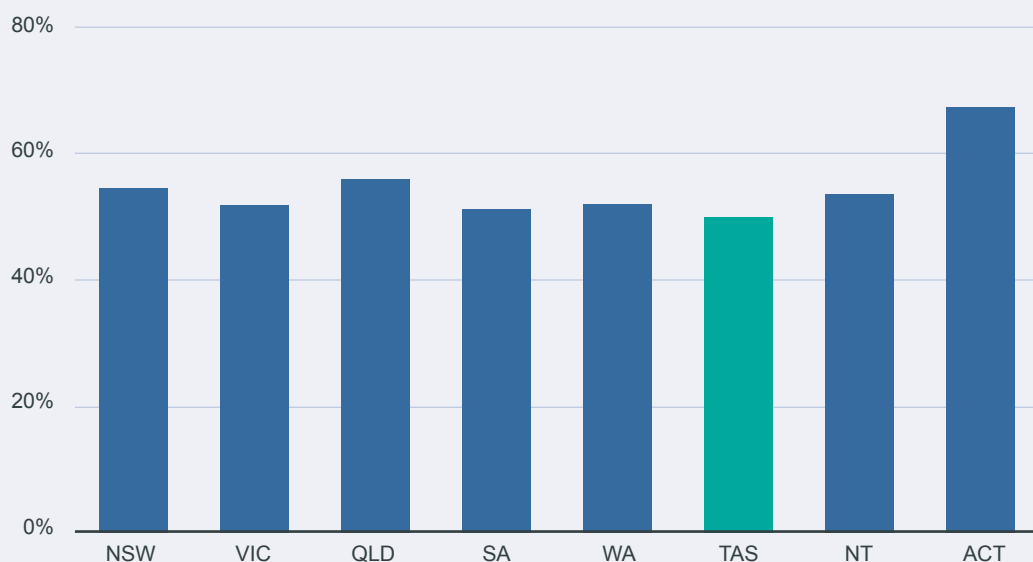
Overall, Australia performed well compared with many other countries. However, the results also showed a serious issue: that 46.9 per cent of female and 52.8 per cent of male adults had the literacy skills needed for everyday life.

More recent data is not available because Australia did not participate in the 2023 OECD PIAAC survey.

The graph below shows that literacy skills were similar across Australian states and territories in 2011.



Percentage of adults with literacy skills for everyday life
by state and territory



Tasmania's response

Tasmania's response to this survey was swift and decisive.

We were the first state or territory in Australia to take a whole-of-state approach to improving adult literacy. This was done through *26Ten Tasmania: Tasmania's Adult Literacy and Numeracy Strategy 2016–2025*. It had three goals:

- 1 Everyone knows about adult literacy and numeracy.
- 2 Everyone is supported to improve their skills and to help others.
- 3 Everyone communicates clearly.



Our past performance

The previous strategy exceeded its targets for goals one and three, with more than 1,340 organisations and individuals becoming members of 26Ten and more than 3,500 people trained in plain English principles over the ten-year period.

Goal two could not be measured in the way we originally intended because Australia did not participate in the subsequent 2023 OECD PIAAC survey.

Despite not being able to assess progress against goal two at a population level, we have learnt a lot about adult literacy over the past ten years, particularly what drives and enables participation and what works in this State. This information has been gathered through four independent consultancy studies, regular statewide surveys, through program data and evaluation, and through the rich stories of individuals who have improved their literacy skills.

Tasmanian Adult Literacy Strategy – 26Ten 2026–2035

Learnings from the previous strategy have been embedded into the new strategy. They include the continued use of:

- the 26Ten brand
- collective impact approaches
- explicit literacy instruction through one-on-one literacy help, and
- workplace grant programs for employers to help employees to improve their literacy skills in the workplace.

The Strategy also builds on these foundations to strengthen its approach to adult literacy, including an increased focus on:

- Literacy skills for everyday life where individuals have specific literacy-related learning goals they want help with.
- Place-based adult literacy help, responsive to community need.
- Strengthening governance approaches to ensure stakeholders are working collaboratively towards a shared purpose, goals and performance measures.
- Maximising stakeholder efforts through developing and maintaining effective partnerships, networks and resources.
- Research and evaluation about adult literacy so that our practices are evidence-based.



The Strategy sets out our vision, goals and broad activity areas. The three goals are:

- 1 Tasmanians know about adult literacy.
- 2 Tasmanian adults can get help with literacy.
- 3 Tasmanian communities have the skills and literacy resources needed to help adults.



Tasmanian Adult Literacy Strategy

– 26Ten 2026–2035



OUR VISION

Tasmanian adults have the literacy skills they need for work, education, family and community life.

OUR GOALS



Tasmanians know about adult literacy.



Tasmanian adults can get help with literacy.



Tasmanian communities have the skills and literacy resources needed to help adults.

OUR ACTIONS

We will:

- Strengthen public awareness activities through the 26Ten brand.
- Strengthen collaborative partnerships.
- Foster a culture of learning and collaboration.
- Establish a 26Ten Champions group, who work across local communities and industry sectors to raise awareness.

We will:

- Help adults (including parents, carers and people in workplaces) with everyday literacy needs and to take the next step to continue their literacy learning.
- Have multiple entry and re-entry points to learning.
- Develop services and programs that meet learner needs.
- Strengthen pathways and transition support between service providers.

We will:

In local communities

- Build skills, knowledge and capability.
- Create an enabling environment with collaboration between providers.
- Maintain our commitment to plain English.
- Continue existing funding for the Circular Head 26Ten Community until 2028.

In workplaces and organisations

- Work with employers to build greater understanding of adult literacy.
- Improve support for workplaces to be able to help people who want to improve their literacy skills.
- Work with employers to identify and address literacy and numeracy gaps in their workforce.
- Build capability in organisations that provide literacy and numeracy instruction and training.

OUR OUTCOMES

Tasmanian adults know where to find literacy help.

Adults can and do access literacy support.

Community responses meet adult literacy learning needs.

OUR PRINCIPLES

Learner centred

Adults are at the centre and in charge of their own learning.

Accessible

Adults can access the help they want, when they want it.

Place-based

Local communities and workplaces have the literacy resources they need.

Evidence-based

Research is used to guide high-impact practices and builds on successes.

Collaborative

The government supports literacy services to work together and share resources more effectively.



Scan the QR code to learn more about the Strategy.

Improving reading, writing and everyday maths for all Tasmanian adults.

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Conditions for success

Our success in lifting adult literacy rates in Tasmania will depend on:

- how well-informed people are about adult literacy
- how engaged potential learners are in adult literacy programs and
- whether service providers have the capabilities and resources they need.

1 Tasmanians know about adult literacy

Informed Tasmanians

It's important that we:

- develop a clear understanding of what functional literacy looks like in Tasmania
- understand and cater to the literacy needs of Tasmanian adults
- use research and evidence to inform and improve our practice, and
- secure ongoing support to deliver adult literacy programs and services.

Over the next four years, we will:

- implement an awareness campaign
- establish the 26Ten Champions Group
- implement the Friends of 26Ten pledge program.

2 Tasmanian adults can get help with literacy

Engaged learners

The 2012 OECD PIAAC report showed that around half of Australians at that time did not meet the minimum literacy competencies required for everyday life.

Despite this figure, few adults seek explicit literacy help. Reasons for this include:

- Perceived shame or stigma about individual literacy skills.
- Adults not seeing themselves as potential learners or capable of improving their literacy skills.
- Barriers to accessing literacy programs and support services.
- Informal support provided through family and friends.
- Adults prioritise help in completing everyday tasks over explicit literacy instruction. This means they may ask for help to get a qualification or to complete a specific task, rather than to address their underlying literacy skills.

This Strategy recognises that literacy learners are more likely to take part in opportunities when help is local, easy to access, offered in different ways and matched to their learning needs.

For example, some adults want to learn to improve their employment opportunities or to help with their children's learning and development. Others may be motivated to learn for other reasons such as reading for pleasure or learning a new skill. All these motivations need to be considered.

Over the next four years, we will:

- Deliver a pilot program in a small number of selected pre-kindergarten programs in schools that helps adults support their children's learning.
- Expand plain English workshops.
- Continue to deliver adult literacy grant programs in workplaces.
- Continue to subsidise general education pathways through TasTAFE that uplift an adult learner's language, literacy and numeracy skills (LLN).
- Review Libraries Tasmania's Adult Literacy Service to include an outreach approach, ensuring people have improved access to literacy support in their local community.
- Implement relevant actions in response to DPaC's *Tasmania's Plan for Closing the Gap 2025–2028*.

3 Tasmanian communities have the skills and literacy resources needed to help adults

Enabled service providers

Literacy is a shared responsibility. Communities, services, businesses and governments all have a role in helping people build and use the literacy skills they need for everyday life, learning, work and participation.

This means making literacy everyone's business, not just an individual responsibility, and working together to remove barriers and support people to take part.

Over the next four years, we will:

- Identify professional development opportunities to strengthen foundation skills support across the TasVET Supplier Network.
- Explore funding opportunities for longer term research.
- Explore development of micro-credentials for evidence-based adult literacy interventions.
- Strengthen literacy mediation approaches.
- Expand and maintain an English as an Additional Language (EAL) resource library.



The Strategy in action

The Strategy will be supported by three implementation plans:

- 2026–2029 (this implementation plan)
- 2030–2032
- 2033–2035.

Each implementation plan will include a review and evaluation process in the final 12 months, to inform the actions and priorities of the following implementation plan.

This allows us to review and evaluate our progress and adjust activity in response to learnings and emerging issues.

The Implementation Plan 2026–2029 outlines key activities over the next four years (up to 31 December 2029).

It has been developed by 26Ten in collaboration with key partners across business, community and government.

Future implementation plans will be developed in collaboration with partners across business, community and government through the Tasmanian Adult Literacy Advisory Group.

Measuring progress

We are committed to measuring our progress to ensure we are making a difference.

The headline measures for this Strategy are:

1 Tasmanians know about adult literacy

How far and wide people know about adult literacy

- Periodic statewide awareness surveys.
- Traffic to communication channels (website, newsletters).
- Number and distribution of Friends of 26Ten pledgers.
- Breadth and depth of 26Ten Champions' contributions at the community level.

2 Tasmanian adults can get help with literacy

The distribution of adult literacy services across Tasmania

- Number of adult literacy learners matched to services.
- Number of plain English workshops held and number of participants attending them.
- Breadth of small group learning opportunities available.
- Number of workplace grants administered and number of employees participating in them.

3 Tasmanian communities have the skills and literacy resources needed to help adults

Distribution of professional development across Tasmania

- Breadth and depth of professional development opportunities.
- Number of people participating in professional development opportunities.
- Analysis of effort and skills required for Registered Training Organisations to support learners to achieve a certification.
- Qualitative feedback from service providers on effectiveness of professional development opportunities (training and resources).

These measures will include activity-based metrics, delivery of specific outputs and achievement of outcomes as well as qualitative feedback reflecting the impact of improved literacy for Tasmanian adults.

To keep us accountable, we will report on progress in the following ways:

- quarterly progress reports for the Advisory Group
- quarterly reporting through DECYP's Lifting Literacy Plan to the Minister for Education and the Premier
- annual reports
- evaluation and review at years 2029, 2032 and 2035.

Tasmanian Adult Literacy Implementation Plan 2026–2029

Action	Responsible	Partners	Milestones (end of year)			
			2026	2027	2028	2029
Tasmanians know about adult literacy						
Support the 26Ten Champions Group, to raise awareness of adult literacy needs and support across the state.	26Ten		✓	✓	✓	✓
Implement an induction program for the 26Ten Champions group to support them to raise awareness of adult literacy.	26Ten		✓			
Develop and make available a suite of resources for use by 26Ten Champions.	26Ten		✓	✓	✓	✓
Expand the reach and effectiveness of the Letters and Numbers e-newsletter as a mechanism for stakeholders to share their activities, stories and outcomes.	26Ten		✓	✓	✓	✓
Implement an adult literacy ‘pledge’ program for organisations and individuals to demonstrate their support for adult literacy.	26Ten		✓	✓	✓	✓
Continued promotion through the national Reading Writing Hotline.	26Ten		✓	✓	✓	✓
Develop and implement the next <i>Tasmanian Health Literacy Action Plan</i> to strengthen health literacy across the state, making services easier to navigate, information accessible and easy to understand, and building confidence in care.	Department of Health		✓	✓	✓	✓
Promote the <i>Tasmanian Adult Literacy Strategy</i> and a plain English approach in documentation and training/events, including through expos, sector training and events, meetings, networks, eNews and socials.	Volunteering Tasmania		✓	✓	✓	✓

Action	Responsible	Partners	Milestones (end of year)			
			2026	2027	2028	2029
Tasmanian adults can get help with literacy						
Deliver a pilot program in a small number of selected pre-kindergarten programs in schools that helps adults support their children's learning.	26Ten	DECYP schools		✓		
Develop and build on resources that help parents to identify creative ways to embed their child's learning needs into everyday life.	26Ten	Child and Family Learning Centres		✓	✓	✓
Expand the plain English workshops available across the State.	26Ten		✓	✓	✓	✓
Administer the expanded 26Ten Workplace Grants Program to enable more workplaces to deliver tailored literacy and numeracy training at no cost to their workers.	Skills Tasmania		✓	✓	✓	✓
Continue to subsidise general education pathways through TasTAFE that uplift an adult learner's LLN skills.	Skills Tasmania	TasTAFE	✓			
Work with State and Territory governments and the Australian Government to implement actions under national policy and program initiatives.	Skills Tasmania	State, Territory and Australian governments	✓	✓	✓	✓
Contribute to regional mapping of adult literacy service provision and free learning spaces.	26Ten	University, library and community providers	✓			
Develop a rental tenancy mobile app to help Tasmanian tenants understand and exercise their rights under the <i>Residential Tenancy Act 1997</i> .	Sandy Duncanson Scholarship, UTAS	Tenants' Union of Tasmania	✓			
Review the Adult Literacy Service to include an outreach approach, ensuring people have improved access to literacy support in their local community.	Libraries Tasmania	26Ten Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania	✓			

Tasmanian adults can get help with literacy (*continued*)

Action	Responsible	Partners	Milestones (end of year)			
			2026	2027	2028	2029
Deliver English Conversation Groups in library and community settings in response to CALD community need.	Libraries Tasmania		✓	✓	✓	✓
Deliver direct tutoring through online channels.	Libraries Tasmania			✓	✓	✓
Continue to deliver literacy instruction services in library settings.	Libraries Tasmania		✓	✓	✓	✓
Deliver informal literacy support in community-based settings through drop-in one-on-one help.	Libraries Tasmania			✓	✓	✓
Support adult literacy providers such as Libraries Tasmania and Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania with training, tools and resources on best practice volunteer management.	Volunteering Tasmania		✓	✓	✓	✓
Deliver small group learning/information sessions in response to community needs.	Libraries Tasmania			✓	✓	✓
Implement relevant actions from DECYP's response to DPaC's <i>Tasmania's Plan for Closing the Gap 2025–2028</i> , for Aboriginal adults with low literacy.	26Ten			✓	✓	✓

Action	Responsible	Partners	Milestones (end of year)			
			2026	2027	2028	2029
Tasmanian communities have the skills and literacy resources needed to help adults						
Investigate opportunities for professional development activities that support the TasVET Supplier Network to deliver good practice foundation skills support and training to VET learners.	Skills Tasmania	TasVET Suppliers	✓	✓	✓	✓
In collaboration with 26Ten, explore funding opportunities to undertake longer term research.	UTAS	26Ten	✓	✓	✓	✓
In collaboration with 26Ten, explore development of micro-credentials to support evidence-based adult literacy interventions.	UTAS	26Ten	✓	✓	✓	✓
Strengthen literacy mediation approaches, including developing a suite of materials to support staff in community and government organisations to undertake literacy mediation work.	Libraries Tasmania			✓	✓	✓
Establish and build on a resource library for EAL clients that support their English skill development.	Libraries Tasmania			✓	✓	✓
Identify gaps or challenges in current provision and develop approaches to mitigate them.	Volunteering Tasmania		✓	✓	✓	✓
Develop an approach to measurement and monitoring of adult literacy initially focused on young people aged 18-25 engaged in post-secondary training.	26Ten			✓	✓	✓
Develop a research agenda to advance understanding of effective approaches for developing functional literacy for life, learning and work.	26Ten			✓	✓	✓

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