

Media release

Adult Learning Australia (ALA) welcomes the Morrison Government's recommitment to Australia's participation in the OECD Survey of Adult Skills for 2020/21.

The OECD Survey of Adult Skills (or PIAAC) measures adult skills and competencies in three key areas:

- literacy
- numeracy
- problem solving in technology-rich environments.

'Governments need this information because it provides a strong foundation to develop good public policy and target programs according to need', says Jenny Macaffer, CEO Adult Learning Australia.

Today Australians need proficiency in complex modes of communication and high levels of digital literacy. A lack of language, literacy and numeracy impacts all aspects of an adult's life and has intergenerational effects on families, children and communities.

PIAAC data is important because it can be used to improve workplace productivity, allocate resources effectively and to identify gaps and priorities.

'We are pleased that the Australian Government has recommitted to PIAAC and that it has responded to calls from Adult Learning Australia and other peaks to review the Australian Government's earlier position to withdraw Australia from this important survey', says Ms Macaffer.

The Australian Government's recommitment to PIAAC is critical at a time when jobs are changing rapidly and Australians need improved skills and competencies to better manage their lives at home, at work and in their communities.

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