



**Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash**  
Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business

Reference: MC20-017045

Ms Jenny Macaffer  
Chief Executive Officer  
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By email: [j.macaffer@ala.asn.au](mailto:j.macaffer@ala.asn.au)

Dear Ms Macaffer

Thank you for providing me with a copy of the letter of 29 May 2020, co-signed by Associate Professor Annette Foley, President, Adult Learning Australia, and Ms Jo Medlin, President, Australian Council for Adult Literacy to the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, regarding the need for a National Adult Literacy Strategy to improve adult literacy in the face of technological change, globalisation and Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The Australian Government recognises that foundation language, literacy, numeracy and digital literacy (LLND) skills are increasingly necessary for all Australians to participate fully in work and life. These skills are even more important in the post COVID-19 recovery phase where those with low LLND skills, already a vulnerable cohort, are at risk of being unable to transition to new work and new work practices.

I note your views on the need to support the development of literacy and numeracy skills through an integrated National Adult Literacy Strategy supported by a strong workforce of adult literacy educators.

The 2019 review into the vocational education and training (VET) sector conducted by the Hon Steven Joyce, recognised the importance of foundation skills and made a number of recommendations to support access to these skills for all Australians who need it. As you are aware, the Morrison Government has responded by implementing the Foundation Skills for Your Future Program. Further reform will be considered in conjunction with state and territory governments through the VET Roadmap.

I look forward to further input from Adult Learning Australia and the Australian Council of Adult Literacy as we take reform of the VET sector forward.

Yours sincerely

Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash

16 / 05 / 2020