

Pre-budget submission 2016–17

Recommendations summary

Adult Learning Australia proposes that in the 2016–17 Federal Budget the Commonwealth should:

1. Maintain and build on its existing oversight role of adult and community education by continuing to fund Adult Learning Australia and Adult Learners' Week on an annual and ongoing basis
2. Formalise the role played by ACE providers in attracting disengaged learners, including youth who have failed in mainstream schooling, in the next intergovernmental resourcing agreement for vocational education and training
3. Ensure that the next Commonwealth agreement with the States and Territories on skills and workforce development articulates a specific role for locally focussed not for profit ACE organisations
4. Support ACE sector innovation to encourage new programs that provide for increased provision in foundation skills that include digital literacy
5. Maintain and strengthen the Broadband for Seniors initiative by offering improved and targetted incentives for the program's community-based providers of digital literacy programs for seniors
6. Target a proportion of VET funding from current Commonwealth programs towards workers who are older than 45 and those with the lowest literacy
7. Invest in a national family literacy strategy focussed on targetting Indigenous and other socially and economically marginalised Australian communities
8. Ensure that every school with a large population or proportion of Indigenous students has an intergenerational (family) literacy program as part of its core functions
9. Ensure adults with barriers to learning are given the opportunity to develop the literacy and numeracy skills they need to build their confidence and contribute to our diverse and changing society and economy
10. Reinstate a revised literacy program incorporating SEE, AMEP and WELL outcomes into a single access program specifically targetted at adult and community education sector provision
11. Ensure that a community learning centre exists in every Australian community of more than 500 people more than 80 km from a university or TAFE campus, with the highest priority being for large and often remote Indigenous communities
12. Commission ALA to research the capacity of adult education in Australia to contribute to a 15 year plan to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and to provide recommendations to the Government on how adult education can be strategically developed and funded to make a significant contribution.