

# Tackling foundation skills in the workforce

The Australian economy continues to change rapidly as we enter the digital age requiring more sophisticated skills within the workforce.

**The mastery of literacy and numeracy by the workforce is increasingly important** to meet the challenges of the evolving economy.



## The importance of foundation skills



**40%**

of **jobs** have a moderate to high likelihood of disappearing in the next 10-15 years as a result of technological advancement



**44%**

of **occupations** are at risk of 'digital disruption' in the next 20 years



Many occupations now require the use of **numerical tools** and models



The teaching of **digital literacy** skills must continue into tertiary education and be a core component of ongoing workplace skills development

## The current situation



**44%**

of Australians demonstrated skills below level 3 in **literacy proficiency**



**55%**

of Australians demonstrated skills below level 3 in **numeracy proficiency**

## What the employers are saying

The most prominent impacts on business:

**42%**

Poor completion of workplace documents and reports

**28%**

Teamwork and communication problems

**32%**

Material wastage and errors

**27%**

Time wasting

## WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

### A National Foundation Skill Strategy

The Australian Government initiate consultations with industry about the system implementation of strengthening foundation skills in the workplace.

### Employer Champions Network

Networks such as the Employer Champions Network be developed to enable employers to advocate for foundation skills programs to other employers.

### Return on Investment

The Australian Government, in collaboration with industry, develop and implement a national awareness campaign about the benefits to employers of investing in workplace foundation skills programs.

### New National Program

The Australian Government initiate the development of a new national foundation skills program to be delivered in workplaces to address the low levels of literacy and numeracy in the workforce.