



# SKILLS CONNECT FUND

## Quick Reference Guide for Applicants

The Skills Connect Fund was introduced 1 July 2013 to provide individual enterprises and/or consortia with access to funding support from the Australian Government. The co-funding grants support the cost of accredited training for employees to deliver the personal and professional development advantages that will meet an enterprise’s whole-of-workforce needs.

The main purpose of the Skills Connect Fund is to support employers in addressing their workforce development needs through training in nationally recognised vocational education qualifications, skills sets, literacy and numeracy support, mentoring and workforce training needs analyses.

### Available funding

The Skills Connect Fund makes \$45 million available in 2013-14. Co-funding grants are available to each proponent or consortia/partnership to assist with workforce development projects.

These projects must meet an identified business need and contribute to the Skills Connect Fund objectives, meet funding criteria and represent efficient, effective, ethical and economical use of Australian Government funds.

### Co-contributions structure

The Government’s co-contribution will be relative to the number of employees within an enterprise and ranges from 34 to 67 per cent of the cost of training. Different funding arrangements may apply for mature age workers.

Size of Full Time Equivalent Workforce	Australian Government Contribution (%)	Participating Organisation Contribution (%)
1 -99 (small)	67	33
100 – 199 (medium)	50	50
200 and above (large)	34	66

### Who can apply?

Individuals and organisations eligible to access funding include:

- Organisations, small, medium and large, with an Australian Business Number
- Not-for-profit and charitable organisations
- Business clusters, co-ordinated by a lead business, group training organisation or local association
- Professional associations
- Industry bodies, including Industry Skills Councils acting as a lead organisation

## Partnerships and business clusters

Co-funding is available to each proponent or consortia/partnership to assist with workforce development projects. In certain instances, state and territory government enterprises and agencies providing services may also participate in industry-led projects as a partner or as part of a business cluster, particularly in regional rural or remote areas.

## Eligible training services

When seeking training within a proposal the training must be conducted by a registered training organisation (RTO) that is authorised to deliver the training for the nominated qualification, in accordance with the VET Quality Framework.

- Eligible VET qualifications:
  - Certificate II to Advanced Diploma level. Certificate II qualifications would generally be targeted at new workers but a case for existing workers on an equity ground can be made. Priority equity groups include Indigenous Australians, people with a disability, people from a non-English speaking background and parents on return to work.
- Nationally recognised skills sets for participants who already have a qualification at the Certificate III level or above
- Foundation skills support, for example language literacy and numeracy support to enable completion of a vocational qualification
- Support services, such as workplace mentoring, workforce planning, and training needs analyses.

## Training and support that will not be funded

- Industry-wide facilitation roles that may more appropriately be funded through other government programs
- Activities normally funded by states and territories (i.e. Australian Apprentices or workers on a training contract through User Choice/national entitlement).

## How to apply

Proposals will be accepted on an on-going basis and can be submitted at any time while funding remains available. There are no funding rounds or set times for proposals to be submitted.

A 'Skilling my Workforce' proposal form is available at [www.skillsconnect.gov.au](http://www.skillsconnect.gov.au)

The completed proposal form must be sent to the Skills Connect inbox at [skillsconnect@innovation.gov.au](mailto:skillsconnect@innovation.gov.au)

## To find out more

Further information about the Skills Connect Fund can be found at: <http://skillsconnect.gov.au/>

Please contact Skills Connect by email to: [skillsconnect@innovation.gov.au](mailto:skillsconnect@innovation.gov.au) or phone 13 38 73 between 8.00 am to 6.00 pm Monday to Friday.