

Tasmania's strategy for adult literacy and numeracy 2016–2025

2022 Annual Progress Report

A decade of making a difference

In 2022, 26TEN celebrated a decade of making a difference – 10 years since the launch of Tasmania's innovative and practical program, dedicated to lifting adult literacy and numeracy skills. Since 26TEN's beginning in 2012, businesses, communities and all levels of government have collaborated to ensure Tasmanians can get the skills they need for work and life.

26TEN began with the recognition that a skilled population is vital to wellbeing and prosperity in our communities and that a lack of literacy skills could slow down our progress towards those goals.

Statewide, Australia-wide and worldwide, low literacy and numeracy skills are an entrenched social problem.

Previous methods for lifting skills were not working. A new approach was needed and 26TEN offered that new approach.

Tasmania became the first state in Australia to launch a comprehensive, long-term and statewide response, engaging all Tasmanians in lifting literacy and numeracy skills.

The approach fostered collaboration between business, community groups, government, education and training providers, and individuals.

This is the approach that continues today.

Since 2012, 26TEN has introduced practical resources such as free workshops on plain English, 26TEN Workplace grants and the 26TEN Chat, a guide for having a conversation with someone who is struggling with literacy to refer them for help. Most recently, we introduced the *26TEN Communities: Local literacy for work and life* program, which aims to build capacity within communities to make a lasting difference to adult literacy and numeracy skills where people live and work.

Like any complex social problem, there is no single or quick solution. It takes time to build reading, writing and maths skills. It requires us all to work together in a persistent effort to make progress towards our vision of a Tasmania where everyone has the skills they need for work and life.

In 2022, we continued to make progress on this vision through the three goals established in the *26TEN Tasmania Strategy* in 2016:

1. Everyone knows about adult literacy and numeracy
2. Everyone is supported to improve their skills and to help others
3. Everyone communicates clearly.

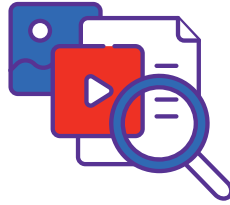
Malcolm Wells
26TEN Coalition

2022 snapshot



4

the first 26TEN communities, funded through the *26TEN Communities: Local literacy for work and life* program, began improving adult literacy and numeracy where people live and work



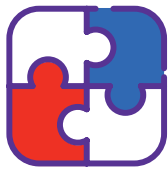
146

people improved their skills in using plain English by taking one of 39 free workshops around the State



11

organisations received a combined total of \$515,000 in 26TEN Workplace grants to run projects to improve literacy and numeracy for employees and volunteers



60

new members joined the 26TEN Network, bringing the total to 221 organisations taking action



341

people learned about the complex issues surrounding adult literacy and numeracy in one of 21 free literacy awareness workshops



10

years of 26TEN were celebrated with a Reception at Government House and at libraries and member organisations around the State



26TEN

Coalition – farewelled retiring Chair Daryl Quilliam, and welcomed new Chair, Malcolm Wells



8

training videos are now available for adult literacy tutors thanks to a collaboration led by the Tasmanian Council for Adult Literacy, and supported by the Department of State Growth, Libraries Tasmania and 26TEN



782

people from around Tasmania received one-on-one tutoring in literacy and numeracy through 26TEN

Back to the beginning – the challenge that sparked 26TEN

Before 2012, there was growing awareness among politicians, senior public servants, and other Tasmanian leaders, that the lack of literacy and numeracy skills among adults was posing a problem for the state. At the time, Siobhan Gaskell was Director of the State Library and Libraries Tasmania (then called LINC Tasmania), Lee Prince was a recently retired public servant, and Malcolm Wells was Deputy Secretary of the Department of Education. They shared their concerns and went on to be members of the 26TEN Coalition, with Lee becoming the inaugural Chair in 2012. Siobhan became Convenor from 2015, and Malcolm became the current Chair in 2021.

Personal experience led to awareness and action

Like many people involved in 26TEN, Lee Prince had personal experience of the impact of low literacy and numeracy skills. A friend of one of her adult children struggled with reading and writing while he was doing an apprenticeship. Lee supported him with his study.

“He was the first person I’d met who could not read or write,” she said. “It led me to think: how can you deal with Centrelink if you can’t read or write? How do you deal with health issues and take medication if you can’t read the label on the bottle?”

Lee began questioning her friend, Siobhan Gaskell. “How can the library service say it’s open to all when there’s this proportion of people who can’t use the services?” From then, they shared a growing recognition of the issue and a commitment to do something about it.

Lack of literacy skills was disconnecting people from the community

Siobhan said that when Lee began talking to her about the impact of low literacy and numeracy skills, it was confronting. “I understood the importance of skills for work, but I also focused on everyday life and people and their health, and reading to kids.”

“Kids were finishing school without good literacy and numeracy,” said Lee. “There were apprenticeship dropouts and workers who hadn’t gone on to any post-school training. Lack of literacy was identified as a real disincentive to that further training. People were not getting the information they needed in the way they needed it. We were questioning to what extent lack of literacy was disconnecting them from community.”

Lee and Siobhan were not the only people who were concerned. In 2011, a national survey revealed the low levels of literacy across the country. People were shocked by the data.

Malcolm Wells remembers the release of the survey. “The OECD Survey showed that around 48 per cent of Tasmanians did not have a baseline level of skill with their literacy and numeracy. When that figure became public, a group of people thought, we need to do something about this.”

Technology was changing the way businesses work

The OECD Survey coincided with big changes in the way businesses worked, said Siobhan. “At one company they had a really good workforce attitude. They had good relationships with their workers, they had strong, fit men who worked

hard and the company supported them. But now they wanted those strong, fit men to be able to input data and read and do all sorts of things electronically and so they were really keen to be involved.”

Siobhan said that John Smyth, then Secretary for the Department of Education, understood. “He tried to get everyone to work on the whole picture: the connection of child, family, adult and improvement over generations.”

Former education ministers Nick McKim and Jeremy Rockliff also supported the effort to develop 26TEN. “We were lucky. They both had had personal experience of people with literacy and numeracy issues,” said Lee.

26TEN – a unique, collaborative approach to tackling an entrenched problem

The heart of the 26TEN approach is that it supports businesses, communities and all levels of government to collaborate in their efforts.

“By tapping into the resources and the people who are there, where support is needed, we get them together in their local area to address the literacy needs that exist in their communities,” said Malcolm.

“We are really trying to get an inclusive response that is close to the point of delivery, where people live, and is driven and owned by the community.



Goal 1 Everyone knows about adult literacy and numeracy

26TEN's 10th anniversary provided an opportunity to increase people's awareness of the complexity of adult literacy and numeracy, and the reasons why someone might struggle with reading, writing or maths, such as childhood illness, learning difficulties and other disruptions to education. Lower skills not only impact an individual, but their family, their workplace and the community. Understanding the issues means more people will acknowledge that lifting adult literacy and numeracy skills benefits all Tasmanians.

Once people gain this awareness, they are more supportive of those facing literacy challenges. They are encouraged to join 26TEN, apply for a Workplace grant or to encourage friends and family to seek support. It builds a culture where learning as an adult is encouraged and those who need help feel confident to seek support.

26TEN 10th Anniversary: A decade of making a difference

26TEN's 10th anniversary celebrated the theme: A decade of making a difference. It allowed us to reflect on what we have achieved in a series of events in 26TEN Week, in October.

Roger Jaensch MP, Minister for Education, Children and Youth, launched 26TEN Week and said we must continue to work together to improve the lives of Tasmanians.

"Literacy is the key to our social and economic prosperity, so the role of 26TEN is vital in making it possible for Tasmanians to participate, contribute and get the help they need," he said.

He noted that over \$7 million had been invested in 117 workplace grants and 55 community grants through 26TEN to progress adult literacy and numeracy initiatives where people live and work.



Minister Roger Jaensch MP, Viv and Anita

Viv Blackwell, adult learner, and Anita Planchon, Director, Strategy and Engagement at Libraries Tasmania, also spoke at the launch. The event was covered by the media including by the state's three major daily newspapers and by the television channels, WIN and [7 News](#).

26TEN Week

To mark the ten year anniversary, we invited members of the 26TEN Network to share their thoughts on 26TEN and the difference it has made for them in workplaces and communities around Tasmania. This resulted in a series of moving photographs, drawings and writing from adult literacy students and tutors. You can see entries below including Brian's inspiring letter.

26TEN created resources and materials for members and communities to run activities that best suited their needs. Members of the 26TEN Network held their own events around Tasmania,



Caroline's poster



Ruby and Lucy

celebrating learners and their tutors and trainers. They shared their success with tea and 26TEN cakes. Activities also included free Plain English workshops at Kingston and New Norfolk libraries, and free Literacy Awareness workshops at Huon Valley.

Brian makes his hardest and most rewarding phone call

To Whom it May Concern,

I have taken the time to enter this competition because it asked for a story to share the difference 26TEN has made to me.

I am a man of 60 years of age, for the best part of that 55 years I have had a problem with my spelling and punctuation.

This is something I have carried through my life...I did not see it as a real problem because I had developed ways in which to overcome any embarrassment it would cause me...my wife... proofread anything that I had written for others to read, such as letters or emails.

I had also developed handwriting, which was hard to read.

I work very early shift at my place of employment, and I like to have a cup of tea in the lunchroom before I start my shift.

Each morning it seemed the same advertisement would come on the television for the Reading Writing Hotline. After a couple of weeks, I started to feel these ads were being directed at me.

This is when I decided I would pluck up the courage and give the phone number a call. This was by far the hardest and most rewarding call I have ever made.

To have a problem like this that you have hidden from everyone but your closest love one's for fear of embarrassment, and then to make it public, is a very daunting thing to do, as it is an admission by you that you have a flaw in your character which needs addressing.

The lady from the Hot Line she gave me the contact number for my local contact at libraries Tasmania in Huonville.

The lady I spoke to at Libraries Tasmania was Toni, she made an appointment for me to come and see her. This was the start of my incredible learning journey.

At my first meeting, I was welcomed in the politest most nonjudgmental way. This Reception just made my fears of being looked down upon slip away.

It only took two sessions with Toni, to make me realise that I had become part of a very special organisation, with the wellbeing of people and their education at the forefront of their charter.

I have now been attending my classes for five months on a weekly basis, in this time I have learnt to set out a letter, email, short story or other pieces of writing with proper paragraphs, and with punctuation which has greatly improved but is not yet perfect.

I could not fully explain in words the day I first wrote an email which was set out in proper paragraphs. As looked down upon the printed copy, the immense boost in self-esteem and pride from doing this myself was something which will live with me forever.

I also decided I now had the confidence to work on fixing my handwriting. My wife spends a lot of time with me reading from books so I can write the story to practice my handwriting, spelling and punctuation.

My handwriting has developed so much over this period that she told me the other day "it is wonderful now".

So, as you have read through this story, I do hope you have taken time to notice the set out and punctuation of my story as this is the true reflection, although not yet perfect, of what I have achieved so far with the help of 26TEN.

It would also be remiss of me at this stage not to thank your organisation and the people who fund it, who volunteer, and the people work so hard to improve the lives of others by suppling such a service to the community.

The debt of gratitude that I owe personally I am afraid I can never repay. But please understand that you have made the world of difference to me for the rest of my life.

Thankyou guys, from the bottom of my heart.

And Thankyou 26TEN,

**Yours Thankfully
Brian Yeaman.**

A Reception at Government House

The Governor welcomed 60 guests from the Member Network to a Reception for 26TEN at Government House. Sue McKerracher (on behalf of the Minister) launched the mini-documentary highlighting the work that 26TEN does in workplaces and communities.



26TEN Coalition member Dick Warner and Anne Salt, Adult Literacy Trainer



26TEN Community Coordinators – Taylor, Kate and Lucy



26TEN Communities enjoying the event at Government House

Advocacy

Tasmanian Government Literacy Advisory Panel

26TEN provided consultation support to the Literacy Advisory Panel, an expert group appointed by the Premier of Tasmania in September 2021. This included a comprehensive submission on the work of 26TEN and advice on how the Panel might develop a community-wide framework to achieve a literate Tasmania. 26TEN will continue to work with the Literacy Advisory Panel when they finalise their report in early 2023.

Family literacy

26TEN Coalition member Gail Eaton-Briggs also has a role as leader on the B4 Early Years Coalition which supports families and children before they start school. From birth to four years is a critical time in a child's development. Both coalitions recognise that parents and carers are vital to their children's learning. That's why the coalitions advocate for resources for adults to help them feel more confident supporting the learning of the children they care for.

In support of this, Gail published an opinion piece in the *Mercury* newspaper in November 2022. In particular she called for:

... a holistic Family Literacy approach that involves several coordinated components; education from conception to four years, programs for parents, parents and children, and adult literacy learning.

Goal 2 Everyone is supported to improve their skills and to help others

Literacy and numeracy skills are key to unlocking many opportunities in society and that is why 26TEN aims for everyone to have the chance to develop their skills. We do this by supporting people where they work and live, in 26TEN Communities and through our member organisations such as Libraries Tasmania, Neighbourhood Houses and Child and Family Learning Centres. We support the people who have good literacy and numeracy skills to support adult learners to develop their skills. This might be through training to become an adult literacy practitioner, opportunities to volunteer as a tutor, or by following the 26TEN Chat guidelines for referring a person to a literacy service.



Workplace grant recipient, Duggans Construction: Lucy and Mick

26TEN Communities: Local literacy for work and life

Launched in late 2021, the 26TEN Communities: Local literacy for work and life program began implementation in January 2022.

The 26TEN Communities are:

- Glenorchy
- Clarence Plains
- Huon Valley
- Launceston Northern Suburbs

The four communities began by supporting existing adult literacy and numeracy initiatives and engaging local businesses and organisations to contribute. The impact of COVID-19 in Tasmania delayed the initial goals of the program because tutors and adult learners were unable to take lessons in person and some found it challenging to take part in training online. The slower start gave the 26TEN Community Coordinators time to establish a process for collecting data that provides meaningful analysis of their activities and informs ongoing improvement of the program.

Each community established a steering group with representatives from local service providers, businesses, local government, schools and volunteer organisations. TasTAFE offered the [Tutor Adult Literacy Learners](#) course to train volunteer literacy tutors, supported by the Community Coordinators.

Key findings from data collected between January and December 2022 include:

- 290 adult learning sessions provided literacy and numeracy support across the four locations, including long term and drop-in learners
- Learners are diverse, aged from 18 to 70 years plus, male, female and non-binary persons, and 85 per cent of learners have English as their first language
- An average of 85 per cent of learners thought their skills and confidence with reading, writing and maths had improved because of the support from the communities.

26TEN Coalition

The 26TEN Coalition is made up of influential Tasmanians who volunteer their time to encourage people and organisations to understand the challenges of low literacy and numeracy. In 2022, members of the Coalition continued to volunteer their time to advocate for their sectors to take action to improve adult literacy and numeracy skills. Sectors represented in 2022 were health, education, community, legal, agriculture, aged care, disability, local and state government, adult learning, and trades and vocational education and training.

Members are appointed by the Minister for Education, Children and Youth, and they provide the Minister with high-level direction and support. In May, the Minister met with members of the Coalition and congratulated them on the work done to date. The meeting offered an opportunity to share views on how our state will focus on developing skills using strategies based on continuing improvement and practices that are informed by evidence and expertise.

26TEN's ongoing collaboration with a range of government organisations, such as Libraries Tasmania, TasTAFE, the Jobs Hubs, Child and Family Learning Centres, and the Health Literacy Network, gives them an understanding of the practical help that is available and the ability to refer people to each other's services. By working together, more people can be helped to develop skills in a way that suits them.

Stigma is a significant reason for people's reluctance to seek support. The Minister and the Coalition therefore agreed on the importance of reducing the negative way that the lack of literacy and numeracy skills is spoken about. People in 26TEN Communities are encouraged to look at their strengths and their interests to give them the motivation to learn.

On behalf of 26TEN's Executive Director, Sue McKerracher, Trish Scholwin, Manager 26TEN, thanked Coalition members for their contribution to 26TEN, especially Siobhan Gaskell who had been on the Coalition since its inception in 2012 and Malcolm Wells for his contribution of ten years.

New Chair for Coalition focuses on the long-term effort needed to raise literacy

Malcolm Wells was appointed the new Coalition Chair, bringing his experience over many years as an educator and another seven years as the Coalition member representing the education sector. Malcolm's focus will be on ensuring Tasmanians understand that improving adult literacy and numeracy is the most important thing we can do for our future – socially and economically – and that social change takes time, so efforts must continue well into the future.



Chair, 26TEN, Malcolm Wells

Retiring Coalition members recognised for their dedication to developing skills

Siobhan Gaskell, founding member and convener, 26TEN

As previously noted, Siobhan Gaskell was a founding member of the 26TEN Coalition, which began in 2012. Key to 26TEN's vision and collective impact approach Siobhan focused on the 26TEN Tasmanian Strategy, ensuring that people and organisations could take practical steps to improve skills. In 2019, Siobhan's significant contribution to improving adult literacy and numeracy in her career and then as a volunteer on the 26TEN Coalition, was recognised, when she was inducted into the Tasmanian Honour roll of Women.

Daryl Quilliam, Chair, 26TEN Coalition

Daryl Quilliam retired from the Coalition after six years of service. He reflected on the direct ways the 26TEN Strategy helps those in need. He said highlights of his time as Chair included:

- 26TEN's sponsorship of the Young Farmer of the Year Competition's literacy and numeracy modules, which highlighted how the winner, William Baxter, has faced his challenges with dyslexia
- Assisting people in local communities to increase their employment opportunities and quality of life by getting their driver licences
- Supporting the 'Hatching of the Reading Bug' project in Circular Head, which helped parents, particularly fathers, read regularly to their young children.



26TEN Convenor, Siobhan Gaskell and Chair, Daryl Quilliam

Two other members who retired in 2022 had been members of the Coalition since 2015. Mellissa Gray represented the State Government sector and was involved in developing the 26TEN Tasmania Strategy. Tim Tierney represented the legal sector and developed relationships that have seen strong connections built with the UTAS Law School and other legal entities. Both Mellissa and Tim were strong advocates for plain English, recognising that clear communication is vital for a society that is equitable and accessible.

The retiring Coalition members were all committed to establishing the 26TEN Communities program, recognising the need for opportunities for learning where people work and live. Their service was given freely, generously and with dedication to supporting Tasmanians to get the tools for life.

Leadership in adult learning – Ministerial forum

Skills Tasmania held Tasmania's first Adult Learning Forum in late February 2022. Over 70 participants met to discuss leadership in adult learning. The Minister for Skills, Training and Workforce Growth and Minister for Education, Children and Youth, the Hon Roger Jaensch MP, opened the Forum.

Community Coordinator Taylor Bouvy presented an overview of the 26TEN Launceston Northern Suburbs Community which operates in Neighbourhood Houses in Mowbray, Newnham and Ravenswood and supports learners from diverse backgrounds. Taylor showed a video of personal testimonies from adult learners about how they had benefited from improving their literacy and numeracy skills, especially through the tutorials in using assistive technology. Taylor also discussed the importance of partners, and of collaborating with other service providers such as Libraries Tasmania and UTAS in assisting people to reach their personal and professional goals.

Building literacy and numeracy – 26TEN Workplace grants

26TEN Workplace grants support employers and peak bodies to run projects to improve literacy and numeracy of Tasmanian workers – paid and volunteer.

Grants are offered for projects that support employees with lower reading, writing or maths skills to improve their skills. Funding may also be provided for training other staff to work with colleagues or clients who lack skills as well as to improve workplace communication with techniques such as plain English. The funding can also cover the task of determining the needs of the workforce and developing resources for use in projects.

Successful recipients for the 2022 grants received a total of \$514,566.62. These were:

- Rural Business Tasmania
- NOSS – Bluegum Grounds Maintenance, with Work & Training
- Blueline Laundry Kings Meadows, with Work & Training
- Blueline Laundry New Town, with Work & Training
- Lenah Game Meats
- Glenhaven Family Care
- Burnie Community House/TasTAFE
- Disability Employment Services, with Work & Training
- Friends of Zafira
- Catholic Care, with Work & Training
- Glenorchy City Council.



Bruce Milne (TasTAFE), Tracy Edington-Mackay (Burnie Community House) and Hon Roger Jaensch MP



Workplace grant recipient Rural Business Tasmania's Rhett McKenzie-Edwards at Agfest.

Roger Jaensch, Minister for Education, Children and Youth announced the successful grant applicants in June 2022, and visited one of the recipients – Burnie Community House.

New Get Ready grants support organisations to apply for Workplace grants

New small, quickly accessed grants (called Get Ready grants) of up to \$5,000 were launched in 2022 to fund employers to prepare for a longer term 26TEN Workplace grant. The funding allows organisations to employ an Adult Literacy Trainer to work with them to determine their business needs and skill gaps, and to help design a suitable project that might be funded by an Workplace grant.

Grant participants share the benefits of building skills at work

Sally from Lenah Game Meats – participating in a way that works

“A flexible training delivery model enabled staff to engage and participate in the project in a way that worked for them individually. The project also enabled personal and team development which empowered staff to effect positive change both in their personal and work lives.

A win-win and we believe that 26TEN is a fantastic initiative for Tasmanian workplaces.”

Linda from Tas Textiles – Improving rostering for easier access

“Learner C was responsible for creating a roster for kitchen and cleaning duties. C had been writing rosters for some time and these had been hand drawn in a way that was not easy to read, using script that was unclear and at times illegible. Additionally, C had started to make rostering

decisions that had not been pre-approved, and this had been causing some conflict and distress amongst Managers and employees.

The 26TEN Trainer provided support for C with writing an easy-to-read roster, one that uses clear formatting and using script that all employees could read and understand. Additionally, C was provided guidance on not changing rostering decisions that had been made by management. This training was successful in that the rosters are now easy to read and more accessible. Additionally, procedures have been developed to inform all staff on the appropriate steps to request a change and this has helped to significantly reduce the tension that was occurring. The success of the new rostering system has been confirmed at the Workers’ Committee Meeting where it was reported that it was much easier to access and read the roster.”

Growing the network of 26TEN members to strengthen impact

The 26TEN Network includes business, community and government organisations working together to make it easier for more Tasmanians to get the skills they need for work and life.

Organisational members of the Network have their own plans for taking actions that suit their business needs and goals. Examples of actions include supporting employees to seek help with literacy, holding plain English workshops, and promoting 26TEN in their public spaces and newsletters.

In 2022, 22 organisations became members of 26TEN, representing a wide range of industries and locations around Tasmania.

- Asthma Tasmania
- Bank of Us
- Blueline Laundry Kings Meadows
- Blueline Laundry New Town
- Business Tasmania
- Friends of Zafira
- Glenhaven Family Care
- Housing Tasmania
- Huon News
- Inclusive Creatives
- Landcare Tasmania
- Lenah Game Meats
- Maxima
- Maxima Joblink
- National Joblink
- NOSS – Bluegum Grounds Maintenance
- Tasmanian Forests and Forest Products Network
- TasWater
- The Salvation Army – Salvos Stores
- WLF Accounting & Advisory
- Woodbridge Online Access Centre
- WorkSafe Tasmania

The Kate Warner, AC, Literacy Volunteer Bursary

26TEN continues to benefit from the thoughtful, generous and active support of now-retired Governor, Kate Warner AC. 26TEN now offers a bursary in her name for up to \$1,000 for professional development for a volunteer involved with adult literacy. In 2022, the bursary was awarded to Julie Payne from the Migrant Resource Centre who used her bursary to attend a Smart Spelling course.



Bursary recipient, Julie Payne, with Kate Warner and Christina Roscoe

Training adult literacy and numeracy practitioners

Australia-wide, the adult literacy and numeracy practitioner workforce is aging, and the qualifications offered to produce or upskill practitioners has dwindled. Opportunities for learning and career pathways are limited, but the need for practitioners is vast.

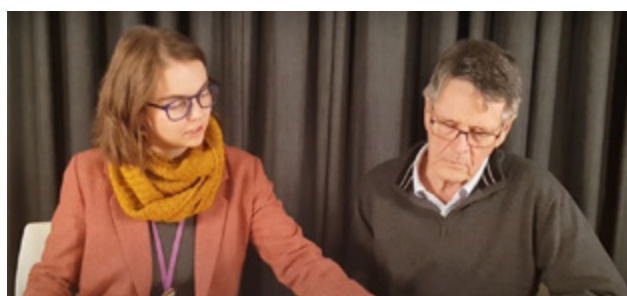
One way Tasmania is addressing this problem is through 26TEN member TasTAFE's continued support in providing free training for adult literacy volunteers. In 2022, 217 Tasmanians enrolled in free tutor training made available online by TasTAFE. Through the Tutor Adult Literacy and Numeracy Skill Set (TALL), participants learn how to support adults to achieve their literacy and numeracy goals and are then mentored by experienced practitioners. Volunteer tutors are a crucial part of the effort to build skills.

Demonstrating the essential building blocks of reading

26TEN joined with members, the Tasmanian Council for Adult Literacy (TCAL), Libraries Tasmania and the Department of State Growth, to develop eight short instructional videos for adult literacy tutors and other literacy practitioners.

The videos demonstrate the essential building blocks of reading. The techniques shown are grounded in contemporary, evidence-based activities recommended for one-on-one literacy tutor training.

The videos were launched in September 2022 and are available from the TCAL website: <https://tcal.org.au>



An image from the new training video – Kate and Tom working on literacy

Workplace practitioners

Adult literacy and numeracy practitioners need an added level of skill when it comes to providing support in workplaces. 26TEN now upskills practitioners to implement Workplace grants by providing them with training and mentorship in advanced design and delivery skills that integrate with the needs of workplaces.



Goal 3 Everyone communicates clearly

26TEN continued to promote plain English as a way of presenting information in a clear and straightforward manner. The aim of plain English is to make it easier for people to understand and engage with written materials for work, education and daily life.

The School of Law at the University of Tasmania continues to engage with plain English and has made it a compulsory unit for Honours students. This is in addition to plain English being included in the curriculum for first year students and as part of the Tasmanian Legal Practice Course.


Plain English for health literacy professionals continued to be a priority. 26TEN presented information at the Building Health Promotion Practice and Partnership Forum and partnered with the Tasmanian Council of Social Service (TasCOSS) in a webinar for health providers.

26TEN supported Clarence Council to produce an information guide in an Easy Read format about voting in a local election. The purpose was to support the democratic process by making it easier for people to understand how to vote


and why it is important to do so. Easy Read is different from plain English in that it uses images to support text, large font sizes and plenty of white space. It has primarily been used for audiences with disability. It is now also used more widely for audiences with low literacy levels or for people whose first language is not English.

Easy Read Guide for Tasmania local council elections


About this paper



This paper is written in an easy to read way. We use pictures to explain some ideas.



Some words are written in **blue**. We explain what these words mean.



This paper is about voting in Local Council Elections in October 2022.

