

# A decade of making a difference

October 2012 – October 2022

Since 2012, 26TEN has led our nation as a ground-breaking, comprehensive and long-term response that engages the whole state in raising adult literacy and numeracy skills.

Here, we take the opportunity to highlight milestones and successes and to celebrate 26TEN and a decade of making a difference.

Over the decade 26TEN's success has been in its collective action approach that unites businesses, community groups, educators, government and individuals in a network that is building skills around Tasmania.

Members of the 26TEN Network have increased as more people and organisations understand that better literacy and numeracy opens opportunities for people. In families, parents can engage with their children's education. Better skills mean businesses are safer and more productive. Communities are more resilient and have higher levels of prosperity. Our state benefits from the skills and talents of all our people.

Those Tasmanians who want to improve their reading, writing and maths skills have different needs and aspirations. Whether the learner's goal is to get a job or promotion at work, get a driver licence or read the notes their child's teacher sends home from school, members of the 26TEN Network are helping.

Members such as Huon Aquaculture, Australia Foods (Fonterra Australia) or Glenhaven Family Care make help available in the workplace. More formal support is available at TasTAFE. Help can be found at the library in Glenorchy, the Child and Family Learning Centre in Clarence Plains, the neighbourhood house in Ravenswood and the community centre in Geeveston. These are just a few examples of where 26TEN is in action.

However, there are still barriers to learning. They might be getting time off work, finding transport, getting childcare, ill health or simply meeting the pressing needs of everyday life. While 26TEN has had some success in reducing stigma, it continues to be a significant barrier. Too many people are ashamed of their lack of skills and reluctant to seek help.

That's why we must remember that there are many reasons people have low literacy and we need to be flexible in how help is provided and give each and every Tasmanian ways to contribute.

The 26TEN collective action approach is working and there are still many more people to help. We must continue to give Tasmanians the support they need for work, and in their families and communities. Better literacy and numeracy means a better Tasmania for all.

**Malcolm Wells**  
26TEN Coalition

# About 26TEN

## What we do

26TEN unites business, community and government in a statewide effort to raise adult literacy and numeracy levels. Our name comes from the 26 letters of the alphabet, and the ten digits we use for counting.

Since 2012, 26TEN has been Australia's only statewide, comprehensive and long-term response to lifting adult literacy and numeracy. It also has tri-partisan political support.

The 26TEN vision is for all Tasmanians to have the literacy and numeracy skills they need to participate fully in work and life.

## Our goals

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

## Who we are

- 26TEN Network of organisations and individuals who promote 26TEN and have 26TEN action plans to address literacy needs in their workplaces and communities
- 26TEN Coalition of influential Tasmanians, who encourage their sectors to support adult literacy and numeracy. Sectors include community, health, education, law, adult learning and skills, agriculture, disability, aged care, and state and local government.
- 26TEN Team that implements the 26TEN Tasmania Strategy with members of the Network and Coalition. Our roles cover literacy, plain English, administration, teaching, volunteering, communications, community development, and bringing people together to make a difference

## What we offer

- 26TEN employer grants provide employers with up to \$50 000 for projects to lift workplace literacy and numeracy skills
- 26TEN Communities: Local Literacy for Work and Life provides longer-term funding that unites people and organisations to provide help where and when it is needed, creating lasting improvement in adult literacy and numeracy skills
- 1300 002 610 help line - to guide and refer Tasmanians seeking help
- 26TEN Chat - a five-step guide to help start a conversation with those who struggle with reading, writing or maths
- 26TEN website - focuses on building collective action for the 26TEN Network and informs Tasmanians about adult literacy programs and services and how they can get involved
- 26TEN communications campaign - to inform the community of the benefits of adult literacy and numeracy skills and how the 26TEN network can help

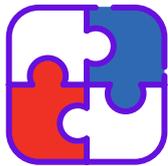
## Free statewide workshops

- 26TEN Steps Literacy Awareness workshops improve understanding of the complex issues around adult literacy and show how people can help
- Plain English workshops promote clear communication that enhance access to information for all Tasmanians



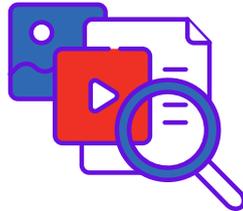
# 26TEN statistics 2012- 2022

**Goal 1** Everyone knows about adult literacy and numeracy



**1131**

individuals, member organisations and community groups participating in the 26TEN Network



**3391**

people took part in 242 literacy awareness workshops



**117**

employers and 55 communities have been awarded over \$7 million to build adult literacy and numeracy skills

**Goal 3** Everyone communicates clearly



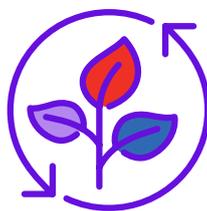
**33223**

people took part in 285 plain English workshops to support clear communication



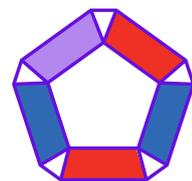
**4650**

Libraries Tasmania, a 26TEN Member, has supported over 4650 adults to improve their literacy and numeracy skills



**\$5.20**

For every \$1 invested by the Tasmanian Government and others at least \$5.20 benefit is returned to Tasmania



**\$27.2M**

The socio-economic and cultural value of the 26TEN Strategy 2018-2019 was conservatively estimated to be 27.2 million

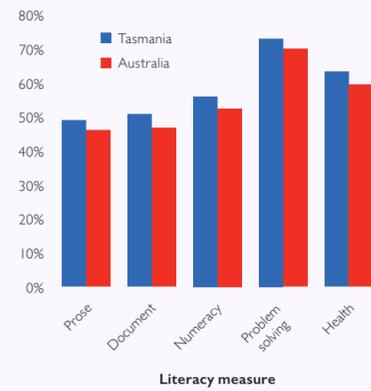
2012

## 26TEN is launched

### A new approach to a complex problem

26TEN: a unique statewide, collaborative approach to improving literacy and numeracy skills in Tasmanian adults. Everyone can help because by it is by working together that we will make a difference.

Proportion of Tasmanians without the literacy skills needed to cope with everyday life and work\*



2014

### Employer grants build skills at work

The employer grants hit their stride, lifting skills in the most diverse range of workplaces to date. They covered aged care, disability, agriculture, food production and the manufacturing sectors from Smithton to the Huon Valley.



2016

### 26TEN on national TV

26TEN was named as an effective strategy for tackling adult literacy and numeracy on Insight into literacy on SBS *Insight* with Jenny Brockie.

### 26TEN Health Literacy Network launch

This initiative was launched with the Department of Health and Human Services and University of Tasmania to help Tasmanians navigate the health system.



2018

### 26TEN gets chatty

People kept asking us how they should speak to people they notice struggling with reading, writing and maths. That's why we developed the 26TEN Chat.

The Chat is a five-step guide helping start a conversation that encourages people to seek support to build literacy skills that may make their lives a little easier.



2020

### 26TEN Communities funded as part of the Adult Learning Strategy

26TEN received funding for a new program as part of the Tasmanian Government's Adult Learning Strategy. The increased and longer-term funding recognised that real difference is made in communities when solutions are collaborative, practical and tailored to a community's specific needs.



2022

### Making a lasting difference takes time

There is no 'one size fits all' approach to providing literacy support. To meet the different needs and aspirations of people wanting to improve their literacy skills, support must be provided in a range of community, formal and informal education and workplace settings.

Daryl Quilliam, Chair, 26TEN Coalition

Improving literacy in Tasmania is the most important thing we can do for our future – socially and economically - and because social change takes time, our efforts must continue for many years to come.

Malcolm Wells 26TEN Coalition

2010

### Tasmanian Adult Literacy Action Plan 2010-2015

Before 26TEN, there was a plan to develop a network that would unite existing community and workplace support for adult literacy and numeracy in an informal network: the Tasmanian Adult Literacy Action Plan.

The first 26TEN awareness campaign began. This image was used on the television, in posters and on all publications until 2015.



100 members in the network including Nyrstar, TasWater, Metro, Burnie City Council

Tasmanians are missing opportunities because too many lack basic literacy skills. These skills give us the confidence to participate in a growing economy, in our community, to study, to find a job, to change careers and to [use] technology.

Tasmanian Adult Literacy Action Plan 2010-2015

2013

### Communicate Clearly, A Guide To Plain English released

Since our 26TEN Plain English workshop plain English is regularly raised in staff meetings as a reminder to think about our clients when drafting information. We also keep each other honest by reviewing documents.

Chris Wisniewski, Manager, Inland Fisheries Service

2015

We live in a great state, with an exciting future. It's important that all Tasmanians are provided with opportunities that enable them to be part of this exciting future.

Jeremy Rockliff, then Minister for Education and Training

### 26TEN Tasmania: Tasmania's Strategy for Adult Literacy and Numeracy 2016-2025 launched



This long-term Strategy established the framework for all Tasmanians to contribute to becoming a community where every individual reaches their full potential and makes the greatest contribution they can to our state.

2017

### Literacy volunteers

26TEN is fortunate to include over 1300 volunteers in its network. They are adult literacy and numeracy tutors and mentors who help people read, write and do maths. They are people who help us with administration and they are the people who help raise awareness of adult literacy issues in Tasmania.



I really enjoy seeing people's confidence soar when their literacy improves and they suddenly realise what they are capable of.

Fiona, Adult Literacy Tutor, Glenorchy Library



2019



Literacy practitioners learn the Big Six of Reading

### Supporting adult literacy practitioners

Leading academic, Anne Bayetto, shared the latest in the science of reading with over 60 adult literacy practitioners Building the practitioner workforce and their skills is vital to support learners to make the best progress they can.

The 26TEN Network supports adult literacy practices and resources that are informed by research.

2021

### Four 26TEN communities funded

Communities in Launceston northern suburbs, Clarence Plains, Glenorchy and Huon Valley are the first to be supported as part of the new program, 26TEN Communities: Local Literacy for work and life.

26TEN to me is an opportunity for people to reach their goals, to do what they want to do without it being a scary solo mission, because there's always someone friendly and supportive that can help you.

Hayley, Support Worker, 26TEN Community Launceston Northern Suburbs



26TEN can help you with your phones, computers, spelling and adding up. They can help you with a budget... come in now while you've got the opportunity and learn, and you will have a better life through it.

Peter, Starting Point Neighbourhood House

