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Foundation Skills Study

Ministerial Advisory Board Update

October 2024

Acknowledgement of Country

The Foundation Skills Study team would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners from the lands we are all meeting on today.

We thank them for their ongoing care of Country; the skies, the waterways, and the Earth.

We pay our respects to the ancestors who are in the Dreaming, the elders present and the First Nations people present here today.

Overview of the Study



The National Survey of Adult Literacy and Numeracy Skills, known as Understanding Skills Across Australia



Murtu Yayngiliyn (*Mer-too Yarn-ga-len*) – a feasibility study to determine how best to measure the literacy, numeracy and digital literacy levels of First Nations people



Analysis of administrative data relating to foundation skills for priority groups (First Nations people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people living with a disability, women)



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Understanding Skills Across Australia – The National Survey



Update

- The survey, known as Understanding Skills Across Australia, will form an up-to-date evidence base to assist policymakers improve services related to foundation skills.
- The survey expects to achieve up to 10,000 responses and will provide reliable literacy and numeracy results at the national, state and territory levels.
- Several rounds of testing for the survey have recently been completed, including a field trial with over 300 responses across Victoria and South Australia
- Results of the testing are currently being used to update and refine the survey design and procedures for the main data collection from February to August 2025
- Results are due to be available in 2026.
- JSA is continuing to consult with stakeholders through the Study's Steering Committee and the survey's advisory group



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Murtu Yayngiliyn



Update

- JSA has developed a research paper entitled ‘Murtu Yayngiliyn Study – leading the way in developing a culturally safe, responsive and respectful government approach’ demonstrating how the study will support a self-determined approach for First Nations people and meet target outcomes of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap Priority Reforms
- A Cultural Advisory Panel has been established to provide a governance and genuine co-design structure to hold JSA accountable, and to provide advice, guidance, and endorsement to the Study and to JSA
- The Study has been developed in response to an absence of a contemporary and cohesive national data set on First Nations people’s foundation skills
- Inaugural meeting of the Cultural Advisory Panel is on October 14, 2024.



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Administrative Data



Update

- The first report will focus on foundation skills from participants of Commonwealth administered programs: Skills for Education and Employment, Adult Migrant English Program, Foundation Skills for Your Future, and Foundation Skills for Your Future – Remote Community Pilots
- The report has been reviewed by the DEWR data custodians, and JSA is responding.
- Negotiations underway to acquire data from a range of data custodians, mainly relating to foundation skills in the education sector.