WA Workforce Strategy 2026-2030

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Strategic response for Closing the Gap

The growth of emerging industries such as clean energy, as well as established industries including building and construction, tourism and hospitality and the care sector, provide opportunities for Aboriginal people and communities to build skills, create businesses, lead workforce participation and strengthen economic self-determination.

Training, sustainable employment, career progression and Aboriginal economic participation is at the heart of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

Partnerships with Western Australia's Aboriginal peak organisations, Council of Aboriginal Services WA and Aboriginal Health Council of WA are critical to delivering priority reforms for WA's skills sector and empowering Aboriginal Western Australians to get into, and progress in, the workforce.

Increasing local training and workforce pipelines, especially in the regions, will support employers across all industries to develop and prosper.

Training and workforce participation

11,724
Aboriginal people **participated** in publicly funded VET in 2025[1]

24,900
Aboriginal people **employed** throughout WA[3]

55%
of Aboriginal students completing vocational training in 2025 live in **regional or remote** areas[2]

46.2%
workforce **participation** rate by Aboriginal youth[3]

2,328
Aboriginal **apprentices and trainees** in training in 2025[1]

[1]Department of Training and Workforce Development (2026) *Annual Report 2025-26*
[2]WA Government (2025) *VET Provider Collection*, unpublished
[3]ABS (2021) *Census of Population and Housing*

Workforce enablers



developing culturally safe pathways into education, training and employment



delivering culturally responsive training programs



providing place-based training



strengthening partnerships with Aboriginal organisations and communities



facilitating shared decision-making



growing Aboriginal-led training and workforce development models

Targeted actions to grow workforce

The WA Workforce Strategy will support improved training and employment outcomes for Aboriginal people by strengthening Aboriginal-led training organisations, embedding shared decision-making in the VET system and aligning training with community priorities and workforce needs, to ensure the State has access to the skilled workers needed.



Action 35: Strengthen capability, sustainability and growth of Aboriginal Community Controlled and First Nations-owned RTOs to increase training and employment outcomes for Aboriginal people



Action 36: Develop an Aboriginal VET Partnership to enable shared decision-making between Aboriginal organisations and government to shape VET policy, priorities, investment and system transformation to strengthen training and employment pathways



Action 37: With CASWA and AHCWA, partner with the Indigenous Centre of Vocational Excellence to identify culturally appropriate skills and training priorities and guide system responses to ensure training is connected to workforce requirements of the community-controlled sector and sustainable employment outcomes for Aboriginal people