

ADRAS research theme: Education

Total funding available: Up to AUD 6 million over three years

The fundamental purpose of Australia's aid program is to help people overcome poverty. Education is a key enabler. It helps people escape poverty through improving incomes, employment and enterprise opportunities. Education makes a significant difference to improving equity, health, empowering women, governance and sustainable development.

The Education theme has been developed in accordance with the three pillars of the AusAID Education thematic strategy, *Promoting Opportunities for All: Education*:

1. Improving access to basic education opportunities for all so that children and youth complete a basic education
2. Improving learning outcomes so that children and youth achieve the basic skills necessary for productive lives
3. Driving development through better governance and service delivery so that partner governments support quality education for all

Please see the AusAID Education webpage for further information:

[Education Web Page](#)

Eligibility criteria

Applications for funding for up to three years will be considered. Applicants are eligible to receive between AUD 200,000 and AUD 400,000 in funding per year.

Applicants must address one of the sub-themes below. Applicants must clearly articulate the relevance of their proposal to the selected theme.

Research should have an application to the Asia-Pacific region, but can include cross-regional analysis.

Sub-theme: Transitioning from school to productive livelihoods

Well planned education and training pathways can enable young people to make informed choices about their future, while equipping them with the knowledge and the skills to lead productive lives. 'Productive lives' reaches beyond the importance of employment outcomes, and includes civic values such as community involvement, effective parenting, and active citizenship.

Many of Australia's partner countries have large and growing youth populations, making the demonstration of transferable skills increasingly important for: secure employment in changing economic conditions; social and political stability; and poverty alleviation.

Some examples of issues within this sub-theme include but are not limited to:

- Effective education, training and labour market strategies for small island developing states, fragile states and conflict-affected countries.
- Improving equity in post-basic education, training and employment.
- Effective education and training pathways to enable lifelong learning and productive livelihoods.
- Mapping the relationship between young people's education and work experience and their civic participation, lifestyle choices, and mental and physical health.
- Longitudinal studies of youth transitions in developing countries (i.e. akin to the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth and 'Young Lives').

Sub-theme: Improving learning outcomes for the poorest children

Patterns of exclusion during childhood impact upon basic education participation and completion, which in turn put pressure on the acquisition of literacy, numeracy and critical thinking skills. Childhood disadvantage can be compounded over time, inhibiting transitions to secondary and higher education, technical and vocational education and training, and skilled work.

Meaningful acquisition of literacy, numeracy and critical thinking skills can break the poverty cycle, improve health outcomes, and open up the options available to children, youth and adults.

Some examples of issues within this sub-theme include but are not limited to:

- Comparative analysis of learning outcomes in low cost/fee-free state and non-state schools.
- Analysis of sustainable and low-cost technology use in developing country schools, and the relationship with literacy, numeracy and critical thinking skill rates.
- Intersections between maternal and child nutrition, education and health for early childhood development.
- Comparative analysis of teacher training approaches, and the relationship with literacy, numeracy and critical thinking skill rates.
- Mechanisms to support early intervention for improved literacy, numeracy and critical thinking skills.
- The role of community accountability and empowerment in improving learning outcomes.