Australian governments invest $91 billion each year in developing the skills of Australians – through education and training.\(^1\) However, young people are not learning all the skills they need for the future.

Young people are taking 2.6 years to find full-time work after completing full-time study and almost 1 in 3 are underemployed or unemployed.\(^2\)

The high rate of youth unemployment is a lost opportunity for the Australian economy of more than $4.5 billion each year\(^3\) and is diminishing the prospects of a generation of young people.

Around 70% of young people in Australia currently enter the labour market with skills that may soon be redundant as their jobs are impacted by automation.\(^4\)

Without action, the cost to young people and the economy may become even greater:

- There are nearly 3 million young people aged 15-24\(^5\).
- Of this number, 268,900 young people are unemployed (15% of the youth labour market). Since 2006, this has grown from 10% to 15%. This compares to a national unemployment rate for those over 25 years of 5%.
- At least 880,000 more young people will need significant re-skilling, with more than 50% of the tasks they currently undertake in their job expected to change in the coming years.\(^7\)

To meet the workforce needs of the future we must make changes – and now.

FYA’s *Future Skills Framework 2030* outlines how Australian governments can work with young people, industry, educational institutions and leading thinkers across the country to move from talk to action, proposing:

1. **A National Future Skills Symposium** to identify a pathway to ensuring young people get the skills they need.
2. **A digital platform for future career insights** that provides young people with localised information on the jobs available and the skills they need.
3. **Enterprise and work-integrated learning initiatives** that provide relevant and immersive enterprise education and meaningful paid work experience.
4. **An ongoing Future Skills research program** to generate new knowledge and evidence in this space.

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\(^1\) ABS 5518.0.55.001 - Government Finance Statistics, Education 2016-17  
\(^2\) Foundation for Young Australians, New Work Reality (2018)  
\(^3\) ABS Census 2016. Figure based on 15-24 years unemployment rate matching all age unemployment rate in each electorate and median earnings for 15-24 years. This figure would be even higher if the cost of youth underemployment was included.  
\(^4\) Foundation for Young Australians, New Work Order (2015)  
\(^5\) ABS Census 2016  
\(^6\) ABS 6202.0 - Labour Force 2018. Figure based on state underemployment rate and national figures on share of underemployment by age  
\(^7\) ABS Census, O*NET, AlphaBeta analysis