

Did you know?

6 facts about adult literacy, numeracy and digital skills

1. Literacy changes lives. Unmet literacy needs can affect:

- people's health and wellbeing,
- accessing work and lifelong learning, and
- being able to participate fully in family life and society.

"I became more confident and better informed about what was happening around me and I felt more confident in carrying out my everyday business as well as conversing with others."¹

2. We use our literacy skills everyday.

Literacy involves listening and speaking, reading, writing, numeracy and using everyday technology to communicate and handle information. But it includes more than the technical skills of communications: it also has personal, social and economic dimensions.²

3. One in six Irish adults (aged 16 to 65) struggle with **reading and understanding everyday text.**³ For example, reading a leaflet, bus timetable or medicine instructions.



4. One in four Irish adults (aged 16 to 65) has **difficulties using maths** in everyday life.⁴ For example, basic addition, working out a bill or calculating averages.



5. There are 415,700 people (aged 25 to 64) who have less than a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Level 4 qualification (equivalent to a Leaving Certificate).⁵



6. In 2019 **65,000** adults attended attend adult literacy services in the 16 Education and Training Boards (ETBs)⁶ for on average 2 to 6 hours per week. This is 12.5% of those with literacy needs costing €540 per person per year.



¹ NALA Research Report (2018). What's in it for me? The benefits of engaging in adult literacy learning in Ireland.

² NALA definition from [Guidelines for Good Adult Literacy Work](#): NALA (2012).

³ CSO (2013). PIAAC 2012 - Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies: Survey Results from Ireland.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Central Statistics Office (CSO) (2019). [Education Attainment Thematic Report 2019](#).

⁶ Answer to [parliamentary question](#) 112 on 27 November 2019.

Literacy for Life



National Adult Literacy Agency
Áisíneacht Náisiúnta Litearthachta do Aosaigh

NALA proposes a **new vision and strategy** for the next 10 years to support adults with unmet literacy, numeracy and digital skills needs and prioritise those **furthest behind first**.

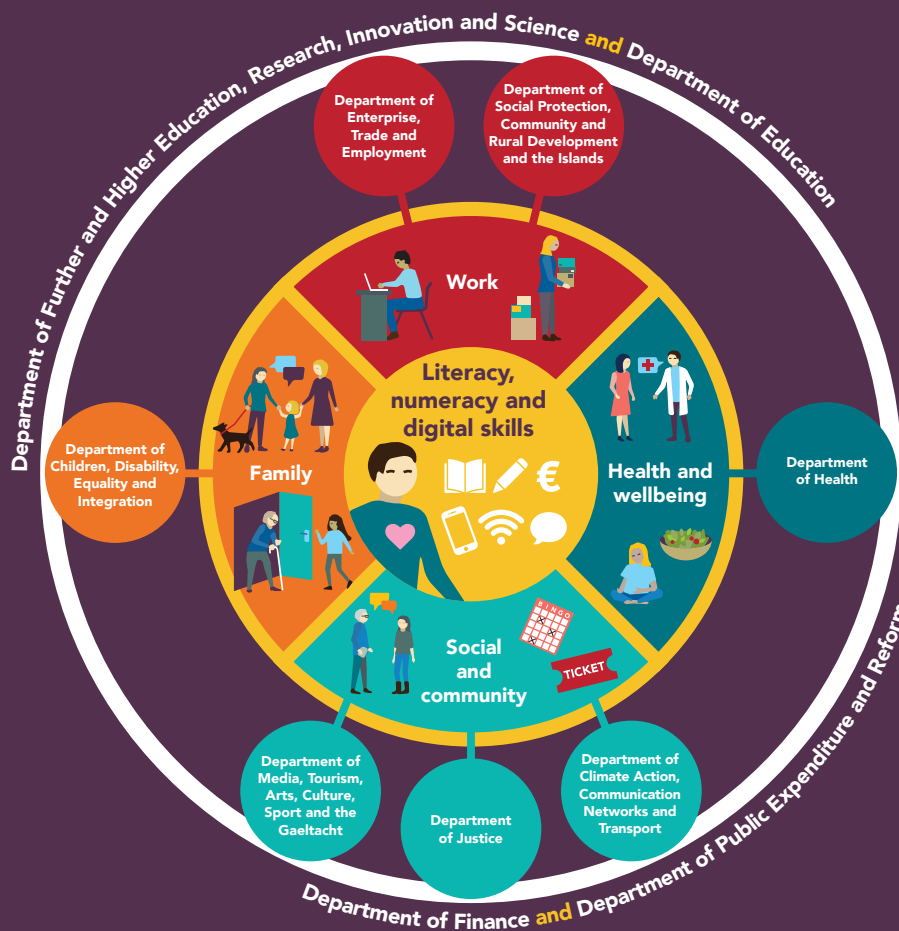
‘Literacy for Life’ is a Whole-of-Government approach for investing in adult literacy, numeracy and digital skills. NALA commissioned TASC (an independent think-tank whose core focus is addressing inequality and sustaining democracy) to develop a framework for supporting literacy, numeracy and digital skills.



This framework recommends:

- a cross-departmental and holistic approach to adult literacy, numeracy and digital skills policy;
- a monitoring framework for adult literacy, numeracy and digital skills across policymaking bodies; and
- new outcomes and indicators for the impact of adult literacy, numeracy and digital skills learning.

2020 - 2030 Whole-of-Government Framework for investing in adult literacy, numeracy and digital skills



You will find more information on the Framework at www.nala.ie