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# What employers look for: the skills debate and the fit with youth perceptions

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### **Abstract**

The notion of skills shortage pervades the rhetoric of economic reform and calls for Australia to become a skilled nation, and it is implicitly associated with conceptions of youth as attitudinally deficient and inadequately prepared to meet the needs of the contemporary economy. However, a lack of clarity exists regarding the term 'skills', the nature of the shortfall and the distinction between 'soft' as opposed to 'hard' skills.

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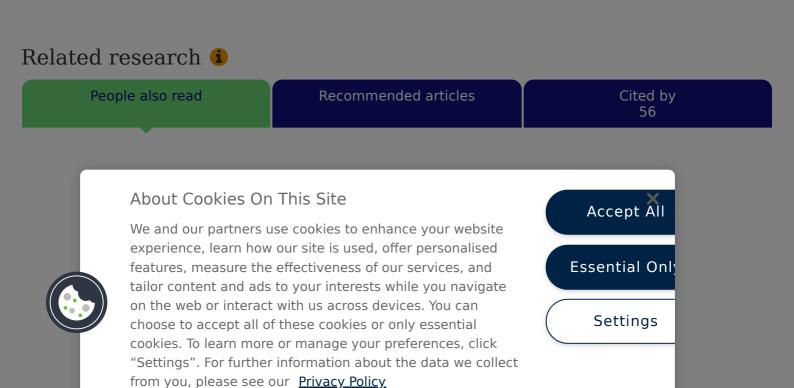
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## Notes

Anthea Taylor is currently a Visiting Research Fellow at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Australian Capital Territory.

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