

MEDIA RELEASE

September 10, 2026

More than 400 events celebrate Adult Learners Week 2026

The power of learning at any age was on display across Australia from September 1-8, with more than 400 events celebrating [Adult Learners Week 2026](#).

The theme of this year's Adult Learners Week (ALW) was "Follow Your Compass – Learning for Life", providing a national forum for sharing the inspiring stories of Australians following new directions and making new discoveries through learning.

Now in its 31st year and coordinated by national peak body for the adult and community education sector [Adult Learning Australia](#) (ALA), ALW highlights the many ways in which adult learning changes lives and strengthens communities.

"This year's ALW has been no exception, with fantastic stories of people finding new direction, overcoming challenges and discovering what is possible through learning," said ALA CEO Jenny Macaffer.

"Our ALW 2026 Ambassadors came from a wide range of backgrounds, with different starting points and aspirations. From Lennon, combining his passion for learning with his life as a circus performer, and Pattie, who has turned her life around through education after time in prison, to Tahnee, who, after experiencing homelessness, used her studies in Community Services to give back to her community - these are everyday people doing extraordinary things."

"Their experiences show what is possible when people have the opportunity to learn, grow and follow their own compass."

Ms Macaffer thanked the Australian Government for its continued support of this flagship week, particularly the Federal Minister for Skills and Training, the Hon Andrew Giles MP, who spoke at the ALW 2026 national launch in Sydney on September 1, and announced the ALW 2026 Scholarship and Learning Together Award winners.

The stories of the winning learners can be found at www.adultlearnersweek.org.

Ms Macaffer also thanked this year's launch partners MTC FutureReady, keynote speaker and [SBS' Lost for Words](#) teacher Adam Nobilia, the launch panel of adult learners, and everyone who joined in and made #ALW2026 such a memorable week of celebration.

ADULT LEARNERS WEEK - BACKGROUND



ALW is a UNESCO initiative, supported by the Australian Government.

Any adult education and training organisation can get involved in Adult Learners Week, including neighbourhood houses, community centres, libraries, training organisations, local governments, Aboriginal learning cooperatives, employers, not-for-profits, workplaces, men's or women's sheds, U3As, community colleges, TAFEs and universities.

Every year, ALW scholarships and Awards are awarded to outstanding adult learners to enable them to either take a new learning pathway or continue an existing one.

To arrange an interview or for more information, please contact ALA CEO Jenny Macaffer at ceo@ala.asn.au

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