



SENATOR THE HON MICHAELIA CASH

SENATOR FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

MINISTER FOR SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS, SKILLS AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

MESSAGE FROM

SENATOR THE HON MICHAELIA CASH

**MINISTER FOR SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS, SKILLS AND
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION**

ADULT LEARNERS' WEEK 2018 – AMEP 70TH ANNIVERSARY

I am delighted to have been appointed to the role of Minister for Small and Family Business, Skills and Vocational Education and to provide this message to you at the launch of Adult Learners' Week 2018.

This year we mark the 70th anniversary of the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP).

AMEP has played an important and longstanding role in positively transforming lives. It is appropriate that as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of AMEP, the theme of Adult Learners' Week is 'Learning Changes Lives'.

Adult learning changes lives not simply by skilling a labour force, but by connecting people with communities, boosting confidence, building self-esteem and by making people more adaptable to changes in the workforce and in our communities.

It is this adaptability and strength through interconnection that has made Australia one of the most successful multicultural societies in the world; giving immigrants to Australia an opportunity to enrich themselves and Australia itself, economically, socially and culturally.

AMEP has been enabling this for 70 years – established in 1948 as part of the Australian Government's ambitious post-World War II migration program.

Since its inception, AMEP has empowered its participants through English language learning, helping people to improve their skills, be active in their communities and find work.

AMEP has stood the test of time because it has constantly adapted to support the needs of new migrants.

Today AMEP is more than just a language program – it is a broad, enabling service, with social supports and training in skills that help improve employability.

AMEP's success is deeply rooted in the commitment and hard work of its teachers and providers across the country.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the past and present teachers, providers and volunteer tutors for their dedication, hard work and commitment.

It is my hope that the AMEP program will continue to grow into the future and develop according to the changing needs of new migrants.

Adult Learners' Week and AMEP are part of the continuum of skills and learning that is a crucial aspect of education in Australia.

Our nation and our economy are built on the foundation of our skilled, educated and diverse workforce. Many workers are from immigrant backgrounds who shared their unique skills with Australia to build our country's prosperity.

In celebrating AMEP, we recognise this contribution and pay tribute to these diverse Australians.

I look forward to hearing the outcomes of this important week and to strengthening our partnership towards changing the lives of adult Australians and communities through education.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michaelia Cash". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Michaelia Cash
04/09/2018