

A celebration of outstanding achievement in adult education

A young father who can now read stories to his daughter, a formerly homeless mother of five who now has a bright future, and a young woman with severe hearing loss who can now communicate using Auslan are the recipients of the 2019 Adult Learners Week scholarships.

The Hon. Steve Irons MP announced the scholarship winners at the Adult Learners Week national launch held at North Metropolitan TAFE in Perth.

The Adult Learners Week scholarships are awarded to outstanding adult learners to enable them to continue learning by either taking a new learning pathway or continuing an existing one. Nominations are received from across the adult education sector and nominees are from all walks of life.

“Choosing the scholarship winners is not an easy task. We’ve been so inspired by the nominees who have used adult education to overcome huge barriers,” said Jenny Macaffer, CEO of Adult Learning Australia.

This year’s #ALW2019 scholarship recipients are:

Greg Nelson – Read Write Now – WA
Kylie Mahon – Community Colleges Northern Inland – NSW
Anita Burfield – The Deaf Society – NSW

“I was struggling with my reading and wanted to get better,” said scholarship winner 26 year old Greg Nelson, a driver for Nidjalla Waangan Mia (Aboriginal Health Centre). “I’m so grateful for the award. My tutor Eva really supported and encouraged me. Now I’m thinking I’d like to become a teacher one day.”

Adult Learning Australia also awarded encouragement prizes to:

Halima Kid – Djerriwarrh Community Education and Health Services – VIC
Kari Fujita – Farnham Street Neighbourhood Learning Centre – VIC
Hayley Flett – TAFE Mooloolaba – QLD

“For people who have had negative experiences of school or whose education was interrupted, returning to education as an adult can be daunting. It takes courage to overcome that hesitation and fear. But there are so many non-threatening ways to return to learning. Whether it’s building your digital literacy, taking an art class or improving your reading and writing – it’s all about encouraging people to get involved, engage more in their communities and take that next step,” says Ms Macaffer.

Adult Learners’ Week events and activities highlight the benefits of learning and the many adult learning options available for all Australians. The Week aims to encourage adults who are not currently engaged in community activities or learning to come and try something new.

To find out more about Adult Learners’ Week or find an event, visit adultlearnersweek.org or check out Adult Learners Week on social media.

Adult Learners Week is coordinated by Adult Learning Australia, the national peak body for adult and community education. It is a UNESCO initiative supported in Australia by the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business.

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