

Inspiring others to take the journey



Minister Blair Boyer and Ambassador, Haydon Grigg

Every Adult Learners Week, a small group of inspiring learners are chosen as Adult Learners Week Ambassadors. The stories of these learners – nominated by their learning providers – illustrate the many benefits of taking an adult education journey.

Prior to Adult Learners Week, these learners are supported to feel confident in speaking on radio and to journalists.

This year's South-Australian ambassadors – Christiana Davies, John Lindsay, Farah Naz and Haydon Griggs – also spoke at the ALW launch (see Cover Story). Afterwards, an attendee said she “felt very privileged to hear all their stories and felt nothing but admiration for the hurdles they’ve overcome to develop their ‘super powers’ and achieve such success”.

These are the other 2024 Ambassadors:

Emma Griggs – New South Wales

Emma, a proud Wiradjuri woman, overcame homelessness and educational challenges to transform her life. After working in the NSW Police Force, she pursued further education, earning diplomas in Counselling and Mental Health. Now 45, Emma teaches Community Services and Applied Aboriginal Studies, empowering others in her community through her own journey.

Melanie Cameron – Queensland

Melanie, a 22-year-old is dedicated to self-improvement despite facing intellectual impairment. With help from her support worker, she has engaged in adult literacy classes at Kawana Library, enhancing her reading and social skills. Melanie's commitment to learning extends to volunteering, as she aims to seize more opportunities in the future.

Kerry Hume – Victoria

Kerry Hume, a 40-year-old mother of three, began her farming career two years ago and has since pursued various agricultural courses. Her dedication has led to her role as Assistant Manager at Aurora Dairies and recognition in the Great South West Dairy Awards. Kerry appreciates the supportive adult learning environment where her enhanced skills are leading to new opportunities.

Tim Royle – Western Australia

Tim, 37, has struggled with literacy due to dyslexia but has pursued improvement through a mature-age apprenticeship and work as a prison officer. After seeking help from Read Write Now, he is dedicated to enhancing his reading and writing skills. Tim's journey reflects his resilience and commitment to lifelong learning and he hopes his story inspires others to do the same.

Mick Curtis – Tasmania

Mick Curtis, originally from South Australia, began his working life in abattoirs and faced challenges with literacy. At 48, he accepted an opportunity from his employer to improve his skills through classes at the Geeveston Community Centre. With support from 26Ten, Mick has made significant progress.

Ornina Ekhtiar, NSW

When Ornina and her family were granted refugee status and came to Australia, she was determined to learn English. She successfully completed a Certificate I in Language and is now working towards her Certificate II in Workplace Skills at MTC Australia.