STEPS

Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP)

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2026



STEPS Darwin Ready for Work graduates

Celebrating courage, growth and grit at graduation celebration

STEPS recently celebrated a proud moment in Darwin as our Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) clients graduated from the employment-focused Ready for Work course.

This milestone marks the culmination of ten weeks of learning, growth, and hands-on experience designed to prepare migrants and refugees for success in the Australian workplace.

Casuarina Business Manager Chris Garth praised the graduates' determination.

"To see all of you come in for your first day, to now walking out of here having experience in the workplace in Australia – it is people like you that give me joy and make me want to come to work every day to support you and your efforts," Chris said.

AMEP Teacher Vijay Daniels agreed with Chris, highlighting the clients' commitment and courage.

"Completing your work experience is no small achievement and you should be deeply proud," he said. "The certificate you receive today represents resilience, growth and a fresh beginning."

Congratulations to our graduates! We look forward to hearing about where their new skills and experiences take them in the future.

AMEP
Adult Migrant English Program
An Australian Government Initiative

The STEPS Ready for Work course also known as Settlement Language Pathways to Employment and Training program or SLPET is a sub-program of the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP).

Clients take the stage to share stories of home countries

The new Casuarina AMEP class recently took an important step in their learning journeys, presenting short talks about their home countries to a room of 23 classmates. The task was designed to build speaking confidence and strengthen their English skills, while giving each client an opportunity to share something meaningful from their own lives.

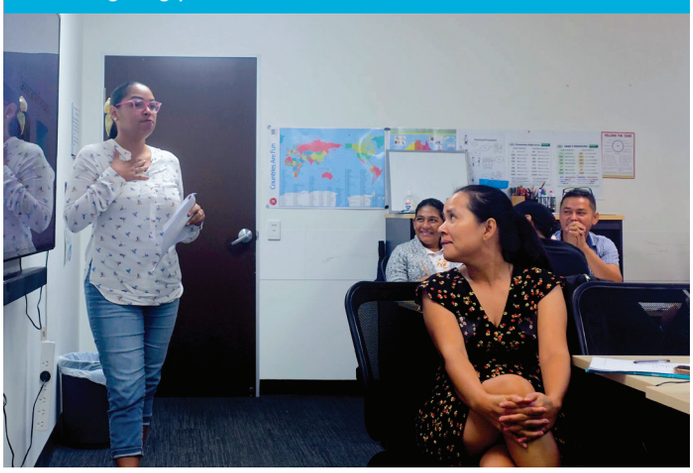
Clients from Nicaragua, Pakistan, Colombia, and several other countries spoke about significant places in their hometowns and the cultural traditions they value. For many, it was the first time they had stood in front of a group to speak English, a milestone reflecting their courage and steady progress.

STEPS Casuarina Business Manager Chris Garth said, "Watching newly arrived migrants stand before their Teacher and peers to share a story in English is nothing short of extraordinary."

"Each presentation is a reminder that learning English isn't just about language. It's about belonging, connection, and the belief that 'I can do this', which is a belief that carries them through the rest of the program and far beyond," he said.

"These presentations may seem like small classroom moments, but they represent giant steps in confidence, communication, and participation which are the very skills that help new migrants thrive socially and economically in Australia."





Clients giving presentations in front of their class



Darwin Multicultural Walking Group participants

Darwin Multicultural Walking Group connects the community one step at a time

Every week during the Top End's dry season, people gather at STEPS Casuarina and lace up their shoes for a refreshing community stroll.

The Multicultural Walking Group is an initiative STEPS AMEP developed in partnership with Anglicare NT and The Heart Foundation. It offers a welcoming, relaxed space for migrants, refugees and other locals to connect and share their culture while practising their English language skills and improving their health.

From April to September, participants meet each Wednesday morning and walk for roughly 30 minutes to a nearby park or garden. There are discussions about cultural traditions, favourite holidays, and life in Darwin, helping participants foster a deep sense of community.

"For me, the Multicultural Walking Group means getting to know new people, new friends, new cultures," one participant said. "Everything is beautiful when we are all together as a group."

"Because of this activity, I gained more knowledge about Australian culture," another participant shared. "I'm from Thailand, [and I've] made great friends with people from Timor and Vietnam because of this activity."

Visit heartfoundationwalking.org.au to join the Multicultural Walking Group for the 2026 dry season.

Scan to view video



Teacher profile

What do you teach AMEP clients?

I teach English through creative expression, using drama, my broadcasting experience and practical activities that help clients communicate confidently in everyday situations.

What do your clients teach you?

They teach me resilience, cultural richness, and how powerful language can be in building connections and a sense of belonging.

What has been a highlight of your time with STEPS?

Introducing creative projects like drama activities and cultural showcases, and watching clients become more confident as they find their voice.

What is the most valuable thing you've learned in your role?

People thrive in a learning environment when they feel seen, heard and encouraged to share their own stories.

What makes STEPS AMEP special?

Our supportive environment and how open we are to innovating our teaching approaches. We celebrate our clients and their backgrounds while helping them develop skills for their future.

What advice would you give to someone who is thinking about joining AMEP?

Bring creativity and an open mind. It's a place where learning becomes a journey that is shared.



STEPS AMEP clients at their Christmas stall



Clients run Christmas stall in Bunnings Palmerston

AMEP clients in Palmerston partnered with their local Bunnings store to raise lifechanging funds, setting up a stall with handmade Christmas decorations, jewellery created in class, herbs and chillies from Harvest Corner Community Garden, and a variety of other goods.

This hands-on project gave the clients an opportunity to apply their English and employability skills out in the community, actively practising communication, customer service, and teamwork.

Money raised was split between supplies for their class and STEPS Pathways College, the first and only College of its kind for young people with a disability and autism.

Bunnings Palmerston and STEPS have collaborated many times in the past, with the hardware store donating items for clients and teachers to use in class activities and community-based projects.

STEPS Palmerston Regional Manager Yvonne Coleman said the relationship between STEPS and Bunnings Palmerston started four years ago during an AMEP class tour of the store, which introduced clients to different employment pathways and provided an opportunity to practise English in a public setting.

Thank you to the Bunnings Palmerston team for their ongoing support of STEPS and our clients.

STEPS

STEP into a world of opportunity



Learn English for free with STEPS AMEP

Are you new to Australia and want to improve your English language skills?

The Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) at STEPS offers unlimited hours of free English lessons to eligible migrants and humanitarian entrants.

You'll learn how to use English in everyday situations, like going to the doctor, using public transport, or applying for jobs. You'll also learn about Australian culture, values and systems while connecting with your community and gaining confidence.

Topics include:

- Life skills, culture, family and friends
- Health and safety
- Managing money and banking
- Public transport and driving
- The childcare and education system
- Medical services
- Australian laws

With flexible class times and access to additional supports like free childcare and one-on-one home tutoring, STEPS AMEP is designed to fit your life and your goals.

Get started today! Contact us to check your eligibility and take the first step toward your future.

STEPS AMEP LOCATIONS

Alice Springs

16 Hartley Street

08 8950 7600

Casuarina

13-18 Scaturchio Street

08 8925 5600

Palmerston

14 Palmerston Circuit

08 7922 7500

Contact us

1300 131 965

customercare@stepsgroup.com.au

stepsgroup.com.au/AMEP

Scan for more information and to apply

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An Australian Government Initiative

Nationally Recognised Training

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