STEPS

Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP)

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2025-2026



Casuarina AMEP clients visit NATSIAA Exhibition at MAGNT



Casuarina clients inspired by NATSIAA Exhibition

A group of Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) clients in Casuarina recently visited the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT). They went to see the Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (NATSIAA), an exhibition that celebrates the creativity and culture of Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander artists.

This was the first art gallery visit for many of our clients, and a special chance for everyone to learn more about Indigenous Australian culture and practise their English language skills in a real-world setting.

Walking through the gallery, they explored colourful paintings, sculptures and stories that reflect Australia's rich history.

During the visit, each client chose an artwork that stood out to them. Back in class, they shared why they liked it and what it meant to them. Some of the pieces they admired included 'Our Country' by the Ken Sisters Collaborative (pictured above), 'Namiliri Billabong' by Charmaine Ashley, and 'Wandjina Emerging' by Angelina Karadada Boona.

The excursion was a great way for our clients to learn new things and develop their confidence when speaking English. Experiences like this help our clients connect language learning with culture and interests, making their journey even more rewarding and enjoyable.

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Adult Migrant English Program
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Ready for Work clients at Darwin Community Expo

AMEP Ready for Work clients shine at Darwin Community Expo

Fifteen clients from our AMEP Ready for Work Settlement Language Pathways to Employment and Training (SLPET) course recently took part in the Darwin Community Expo, held at Charles Darwin University.

The event featured 40 stalls showcasing local programs and support services for the region. Our clients explored the Expo with confidence and helped one another communicate with other attendees and stallholders.

STEPS hosted a stall of our own, where our clients had the opportunity to speak with visitors about their learning journey and experiences.

One standout moment came from client Hoda, who confidently approached every stall to share a STEPS flyer. This is a remarkable milestone for someone who was once anxious about speaking to others in her class, let alone strangers in a public setting. Inspired by her courage, many of her classmates also stepped up and used their voices to share their story.

It was a proud day for everyone involved and a great reminder of how language learning can build not just vocabulary but confidence and community connections. Thank you to Melaleuca Australia for organising the Expo and inviting the STEPS team to share what makes our programs special.



AMEP clients in front of their Travelling Suitcase textile artwork



Celebrating art and community at Government House

Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) clients and teachers from Palmerston were invited to a special event at Government House Northern Territory, hosted by His Honour Professor the Honourable Hugh Heggie AO PSM and his partner Ms Ruth Jones.

The event celebrated a creative project called Territory Icons in Thread. This project was part of a travelling art show called the Travelling Suitcase, which includes small textile artworks from around Australia, run by ATASDA (Australian Textile Arts & Surface Design Association).

The artworks travel the country in a suitcase and are used to teach people about different textile art techniques while helping them feel connected to one another, linking the power of art with the power of community to support mental health.

Our AMEP clients made 16 beautiful embroidered artworks for the project. Many had never tried textile art before, and the experience helped them develop their confidence while learning new skills.

Seeing their artwork displayed at Government House was a proud and happy moment for everyone. The clients and teachers were incredibly excited to see their art in the exhibition, and some felt quite emotional about their achievement.

Congratulations to all of the clients who took part in the Travelling Suitcase exhibition! Unique projects like this show how AMEP helps people grow and connect with their community.



Client profile

What was your main motivation for joining AMEP?

My main motivation for joining AMEP was to improve my English speaking. I am originally from South Sudan, and it is very hard living in Australia when you can't speak English very well. People don't want to give you a job when your English isn't strong, and I really want to work! I love working.

What are some of your favourite parts of AMEP?

I like being in the classroom and talking with people, practising my English speaking skills by having conversations. We recently made cupcakes together and had to read and follow a recipe, which was really fun. I also love speaking to a teacher and having a conversation, just the two of us. I learn a lot from these things.

What are some valuable lessons or skills you have learnt during your time with AMEP?

Learning how to speak in English and understand what people are saying. I'm also learning how to crochet, which is another way I practise reading instructions in English, and I'm working on making a Beanie Baby to donate to the hospital.

What are your professional goals?

I want to pass my driving test so I can get my licence; it's hard to get a job without being able to drive. One of the teachers here is helping me book driving lessons and practise asking the driving instructor questions. I have a few more lessons left before my test. My main goal is to get a cleaning job – really, I'd be happy with any job – but no matter what job you have, you need to be able to read.

What are your personal goals?

I really want to get my Citizenship, which my children already have. I just need to practise my English more so I can pass the test. When you speak English well you can do so much here, so I'm excited to see what else I can do when I learn more.

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

I would tell them: "do it!" It's amazing for learning English and practising your speaking. I'm happy I found STEPS.

AMEP Palmerston partners with TEMHCO for Mental Health Awareness Week

At STEPS Palmerston, our Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) clients joined a special art project for Mental Health Awareness Week, called 'Take a Step Together, A Path to Celebrate Our Strength.'

STEPS collaborated with the Top End Mental Health Consumer Organisation (TEMHCO) to create a meaningful, lasting piece of art. Each person painted and decorated a paver in the shape of a footprint, representing their individual journey, challenges and growth.

The pavers will form part of a permanent art display at the Harvest Corner Community Garden, becoming a symbol of inclusion, strength and connection for the whole community to enjoy.



Palmerston clients paint and decorate pavers for TEMHCO art project



The project gave our clients a creative way to share their stories and reflect on how far they've come, while raising awareness about the importance of mental health and supporting one another.

For our clients, it was a great way to meet new people, practise their English skills, and feel part of something bigger.

The launch party and community BBQ at the garden was full of smiles and celebration. Thank you to TEMHCO and its sponsors for making this project possible.

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

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stepsgroup.com.au/AMEP

Scan for more information and to apply

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