STEPS

Skills for Education and Employment Program

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2025







Harvest Corner Community Garden

Community garden cultivates connections

Our Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) Program and Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) participants in Palmerston have taken part in an art project for the Harvest Corner Community Garden.

Palmerston City Council have generously donated eleven planter boxes for the participants to paint and decorate with mosaics, working alongside Darwin-based artist Janie Andrews.

Palmerston Business Manager Yvonne Coleman said that the participants have been enjoying their mosaic workshops, creating beautiful artwork for the planter boxes.

“The planters are turning the garden into an even more beautiful space for the Palmerston community to enjoy, and it means a lot to our participants to be a part of that,” she said.

“It’s a wonderful thing, for the participants to contribute to the community while they learn and use their new skills. The Community Garden is an amazing way for the participants to contextualise what they’ve been working on in the classroom, from AMEP’s focus on English language skills to SEE’s literacy, numeracy, and digital learning.”

STEPS is part of the collective management team behind Harvest Corner, alongside Life Without Barriers and Helping People Achieve.

The project is funded by the Northern Territory Government through the Arts and Culture Creative Communities Grant, with support from Palmerston City Council and Bunnings Palmerston, who have donated gardening equipment.

“We want to extend our deepest thanks to the Northern Territory Government for funding this art project and garden. It’s given our participants an incredible opportunity that brings them closer to their community,” Yvonne said.

“The garden is coming along beautifully! We’ve added more edible plants, flowers and palms to really make the space shine. STEPS is proud to take part in making Harvest Corner a comforting, inspiring place for the Palmerston community.”



Cassie Stanley

Welcome

I am very proud to launch our new Skills for Education and Employment Program newsletter! It's always inspiring to see the impact this special program has on our participants, and this issue highlights some truly exciting stories happening across our sites.

You would have already seen our beautiful cover story, which takes us to Palmerston for the Harvest Corner Community Garden project. It's amazing to see our participants learning new skills while making a lasting impact on their local community.

We also celebrate our growing SEE Program newly-launched sites and cover the inspiring Women In Construction initiative, along with our Darwin team's visit from Hon Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Skills and Training.

Plus, you get to meet: Bundaberg participant Jo-Ann, who talks about her unique experiences with the SEE Program and what she loves about being part of our community.

A huge thank you to our dedicated trainers and team members who work tirelessly to support our participants in their learning journeys.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter just as much as I have, and I can't wait to share more SEE Program news in the future.

Cassie Stanley

Executive Manager of STEPS Education and Training



Centacare Women in Construction



SEE partners with Centacare for Women in Construction initiative

STEPS partnered with Centacare Far North Queensland, giving SEE Program participants in Cairns the opportunity to take part in the Multicultural Women in Construction Program.

Over six weeks, ten women from the SEE program took part in lessons and workshops about their potential pathways to in-demand positions in Far North Queensland's construction industry.

Vocational Education Training Trainer Tracey Wyer said that the Multicultural Women in Construction Program is an invaluable opportunity for the women in the SEE Program.

"This initiative will inspire and empower so many women to join an industry that they may not have ever considered before," Tracey said.

"Construction is an industry that a lot of women, particularly women from different cultural backgrounds, don't have the opportunity or support to join. STEPS is very excited to be part of a partnership that is working to change that."

Unlock new opportunities

Looking to build your skills, improve your English or boost your confidence for work or study? The STEPS SEE Program is here to help.

Our free, government-funded training supports eligible participants and helps them develop essential skills, from maths and writing to using a computer.

Whether you're looking to take the next step in your career or know someone who could benefit, the SEE Program provides flexible and supportive learning tailored to each participant's needs. Apply today or refer a friend!

Together, we can open doors to new opportunities.

STEPS SEE Program thrives across Queensland and Northern Territory sites

STEPS SEE Program continues to reach new individuals and communities across Australia, bringing innovative education and social opportunities to locals.

From Northern Territory's Alice Springs to Queensland's Noosa and Hervey Bay, STEPS is proud to see the SEE Program's ongoing success and the positive impact it has across all the regions.

STEPS Executive Manager of Education and Training Cassie Stanely said that the Program's continued success and further expansion has the potential to help hundreds of Australians find employment or pursue further training options.

"I believe that when you enrol in a STEPS course, you join a community," she said.

"Our participants join to develop their skills and gain new experiences, but they form incredible friendships along the way and create beautiful memories with the people around them. It's truly special to witness and is one of the many reasons I'm proud to be a part of STEPS."



SEE Program Alice Springs event

Participant Profile



Jo-Ann Watt

What was your main motivation for joining the SEE Program?

I applied to SEE because I wanted to improve my computer and study skills. The end goal is to earn a qualification and expand my employment options in Bundaberg.

What are some of your favourite parts of the SEE Program?

I just love being in the classroom with everyone! I've made lots of friends and I get to work on my study skills.

What are some valuable lessons or skills you have learnt during your time in the SEE Program?

I have learnt how to use the computer and I've improved my reading skills – both of these things will really help find a job that I love.

What are your professional goals?

My goal is to complete a Certificate III in Individual Support with STEPS and find employment in the aged care or disability sectors.

What are your personal goals?

I want to strengthen my friendships and connections with other people in SEE so I have a longterm network of support. I also want to be financially independent.

What advice would you give to someone who is thinking about joining the SEE Program?

I think you should absolutely apply. I've got incredible support from the Trainers and other participants and they're helping me reach my goals, so it's definitely worthwhile.

STEPS

see skills for education and employment

An Australian Government Initiative





The Hon Andrew Giles MP visits Casuarina

The Hon Andrew Giles MP visits Casuarina and Townsville SEE teams

The Hon Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Skills and Training, visited the SEE Program team and its participants in both Darwin and Townsville.

Minister Giles toured the premises of the STEPS sites, meeting several trainers and participants, hearing about their experiences and listening to their learning needs.

STEPS Managing Director Carmel was also in attendance for the Casuarina visit, taking the opportunity to talk Minister Giles through STEPS' mission and vision for the future of training and support across Australia.

"I'm extremely proud to say that Minister Giles gave us great feedback," Ms Crouch said.

"He was very impressed with our participants' progress, and many of them were excited to talk to him about their favourite classes and experiences."

Casuarina participants Pawboon and John were more than happy to talk with Minister Giles, sharing how their numeracy and computing skills have improved since joining SEE.

Trainers Alissia and Keryl then introduced Minister Giles to the SEE team and talked about the ways the trainers build up participants' soft skills, including preparing coffee and cooking, literacy, computing and numeracy activities.

"The visit really highlighted the work our dedicated Trainers do every single day," Ms Crouch said.

"I'm very thankful that Minister Giles took the time to see our sites, meet our team and participants, and give everyone the recognition they deserve. STEPS' SEE Program delivers training in such unique and innovative ways, and this was an opportunity to share that."

SEE what's next...

Employment Expo - Alice Springs, Bundaberg, Cairns, Darwin, Gympie, Hervey Bay, Sunshine Coast, and Townsville

- Connect with employers and workplace training providers in your region and find exciting new opportunities for your career!

STEPS Decked Out Program - Practical Workplace Skills

- Gain core skills for the workplace and practice everyday work tasks so you feel confident and ready to join or re-enter the workforce!

Contact us

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Scan for more information and to apply

The Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) Program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.