Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) Program

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2026



The Hon Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Skills and Training, accepts painting from STEPS SEE Program art class participants



Meaningful gifts for Minister

The Hon Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Skills and Training, attended the end-of-year STEPS Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) Program graduation in Darwin. Participants from Casuarina and Palmerston's art classes presented him with two special handmade gifts.

The first present was a collaborative painting called Monsoonal Messengers, created by the Casuarina art class as their final project for 2025. The bright artwork shows the beauty of the Northern Territory's Top End, with a hunter standing beneath a blue sky and surrounded by pandanus trees, tall grass, and birds flying overhead to mark the arrival of the monsoon season.

Participants from the Palmerston STEPS SEE Program made a candle decorated with dot-painted footsteps, representing each person's learning journey. Everyone worked together to choose the colours and design, making sure each participant was part of the final piece.

Minister Giles said he would display the artwork and candle in his office, and the classes were overjoyed.

One of the participants, Jemma, shared her feelings: "The Minister looked at each of us before saying, 'This painting is important to me.' I couldn't have been happier to hear those words – they felt so genuine."

STEP into a world of opportunity



Cassie Stanley

Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of our STEPS SEE Program Newsletter!

Across our Northern Territory and Queensland sites, participants are developing their skills, building their confidence and taking meaningful steps towards futures filled with opportunity.

Our cover story shares a special moment from Darwin; participants from Casuarina and Palmerston's art classes proudly presented handmade gifts to The Hon Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Skills and Training, who also visited our Katherine site. Their collaborative creations beautifully represent the mix of cultures and journeys that make our SEE Program so unique.

You'll read about Zak from Hervey Bay, whose determination to improve his literacy skills is helping him move closer to his big dreams. There's also Ella-Jade in Cairns, who secured a job in disability support at just 17 years old, and Darryl from Gordonvale, who turned patience and persistence into a permanent role with a local agricultural company.

Finally, you'll meet Alissia, one of our incredible trainers in Darwin who lives and breathes compassionate education and support. We work with participants from a wide array of backgrounds and cultures, and she brings her trademark enthusiasm and warmth to every class. Trainers like her are what make the STEPS SEE Program a community.

I hope you enjoy reading these inspiring journeys as much as we've enjoyed sharing them with you.

Cassie Stanley
STEPS
Chief Executive Officer

Explore 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 STEPS SEE Program provides supportive learning to help you work towards your goals.

Apply today or refer a friend!

1300 131 965
stepsgroup.com.au/SEE



Zak at the STEPS site in Hervey Bay

Zak strengthens his literacy skills for life with SEE

Hervey Bay participant Zak joined the SEE Program to improve his literacy and boost his chances of finding work. What followed was a learning experience that strengthened not only his reading and writing, but also his confidence and independence.

As part of a class activity, Zak wrote a Q&A-style story about his journey with STEPS. With help from his support worker, he shared his ideas out loud, practised sounding out the words, and typed the majority of the story himself. It took most of the day to complete, but Zak loved the challenge and felt proud of what he achieved.

Zak says he values the friendly and supportive environment at STEPS, where learning happens at each person's own pace.

He has big dreams for the future, hoping to start his own business, employ people with a disability, own a home, become a father, and act in a movie.

"I've learnt more at STEPS than I ever could at school," Zak shared. "Please join. You won't regret it. Follow your dreams and don't give up."



17 year old Ella-Jade has big plans for a career in care

Ella-Jade lands disability support role

At just 17 years old, Cairns participant Ella-Jade is already building a bright future in disability support.

Ella-Jade is completing her CHC33021 Certificate III in Individual Support through the free STEPS SEE Program. Before even finishing her course, she has secured a job with Pinnacle Support Coordination and Services, a fantastic achievement.

She joined the STEPS SEE Program at just 16, making her the youngest participant in her group. With support from her trainers and peers, Ella-Jade quickly stood out for her dedication, positive attitude, and strong work ethic.

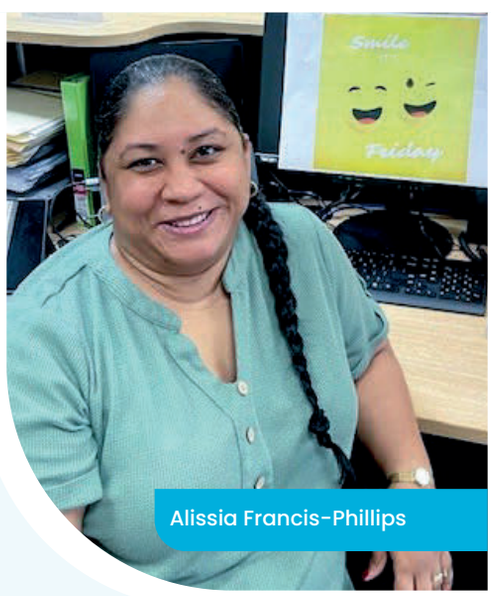
Individual Support Trainer Kate praised her efforts: "Ella-Jade has worked hard every step of the way, and her work is always of a very high standard," she said.

Ella-Jade now plans to finish her qualification and go on to study nursing, following her passion of helping others.

There is strong demand for skilled support workers in Cairns and across Australia. The STEPS SEE Program's Individual Support course offers high-quality training that prepares the participants for the workplace, including work placements.

We wish Ella-Jade all the best as she continues to make a positive interest in your community.

Trainer Profile



Alissia Francis-Phillips

What do you teach participants?

I teach Foundation Skills to help adult learners develop and improve their language, literacy, numeracy, digital, and employability skills. Specifically, I look at individual training plans to help each of our participants looking for pathways to reaching their goals, including finding opportunities for meaningful work.

What do your participants teach you?

My talented and creative participants teach me that learning experiences are varied, and intelligence is measured in many ways. We use music, visual art, cultural stories, and many other activities to deliver learning; for example, a participant might learn new words through song lyrics or explore a new concept by drawing it. My class helps me think outside the box.

What has been a highlight of your time with STEPS so far?

The most meaningful moments are when a participant learns something and uses it in their life outside of class. When they share with me that certain situations are easier and less stressful because of something they've learnt, I feel so happy, knowing I've contributed to their growth.

What is the most valuable thing you have learnt in your role?

To be considerate of my participants and their emotional state. This has helped me navigate a lot of barriers that our participants face in class.

What makes STEPS' SEE Program special?

We're always willing to adapt and grow to meet the needs of our participants. We listen to their feedback and innovate wherever possible. STEPS is so different from other adult training providers because we offer a safe space for learning that is truly tailored to the people we teach and support.

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

When you join the STEPS SEE Program, you'll be joining a community that cares about learning and finding pathways for your success. You have everything to gain and nothing to lose!

STEPS

see skills for education and employment

An Australian Government Initiative



Darryl finds his path forward

When Darryl joined the STEPS SEE Program in Gordonvale, he was finding it hard to get work while waiting for his blue card. But he didn't let that slow him down, and with the support of his STEPS Trainer Mirjam, Darryl focused on building his skills and preparing for new opportunities.

He worked on his digital confidence, created a new resume, updated his MyGov details, and explored different job options in the greater Cairns area.

When the sugar cane crushing season began, Darryl secured a causal role working on the locomotive at MFS Sugar. Just a few weeks later, he received even better news: he had been offered a seasonal full-time position.

Darryl hopes to keep growing in his role and explore new opportunities in the future. Whatever comes next, he's ready to take it on with his positive attitude and determination.

His journey shows how persistence, hard work, and the right support can open new doors, even when you least expect it.

DECKED OUT

Stack the deck in your favour

Ace your professional skills in just three months with Decked Out. Offered for free through the STEPS SEE Program, Decked Out is a career skills course designed to give you the tools and confidence you need to prepare for and thrive in the workplace!

Using a custom deck of playing cards, you'll develop professional strengths, from communication and confidence to writing a great cover letter and acing that first day on the job.

Apply now!

Contact us

1300 131 965

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Scan for more information and to apply

Nationally Recognised Training

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