Skills for Education and Employment Program

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2025/2026



Teegan celebrates scholarship with her class and some cake



Teegan wins Adult Learners Week scholarship

Teegan, a participant in the STEPS Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) Program in Darwin, has achieved something amazing!

She is one of only three people in Australia to win a 2025 Adult Learners Week scholarship and has received $1000 to help her continue her business studies.

"I am over the moon and very surprised," Teegan said. "All my friends and family are proud. I love coming to STEPS. The best part is the people: the participants, the staff, and my trainer Tripti."

When Teegan first joined the SEE Program, she was shy and quiet. Over time, she grew in confidence, made friends, and joined in classroom activities. She worked hard in her digital literacy classes and learned how to use Microsoft Word, among other applications.

As a mum, Teegan balances her study and family life with great dedication, and also helps other participants with their computer tasks.

Teegan plans to use her scholarship to buy a laptop and complete a BSB30120 Certificate III in Business, both of which will help her reach her goal of working in accounting.

STEPS celebrated Teegan's success with a special morning tea. Her story shows what's possible when dedication meets the right support. Congratulations, Teegan!

STEP into a world of opportunity



Cassie Stanley

Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of the STEPS Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) Program newsletter! This issue is full of the courage, aspiration and support that make our SEE community so remarkable.

Across every site, participants are taking meaningful steps towards their goals, whether that's developing digital skills, returning to the workforce, becoming more confident, or discovering new passions and pathways forward.

We're celebrating participants like Teegan from Darwin, who was one of only three people in Australia to receive a 2025 Adult Learners Week scholarship.

In Katherine, something as simple as a STEPS ID card has opened new doors for participants, helping them access essential services, become more independent and move closer to their goals.

You'll also meet Shannon from Bundaberg, whose unexpected journey into support work began simply by encouraging his daughter; Melissa from Townsville, who shares how the STEPS SEE Program is having a positive impact on her life; and James from Gordonvale, who had the goal of improving his digital literacy skills so he could return to his job as a Taxi Driver with newfound confidence.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition as much as we've loved bringing these stories together.

Cassie Stanley
STEPS
Chief Executive Officer

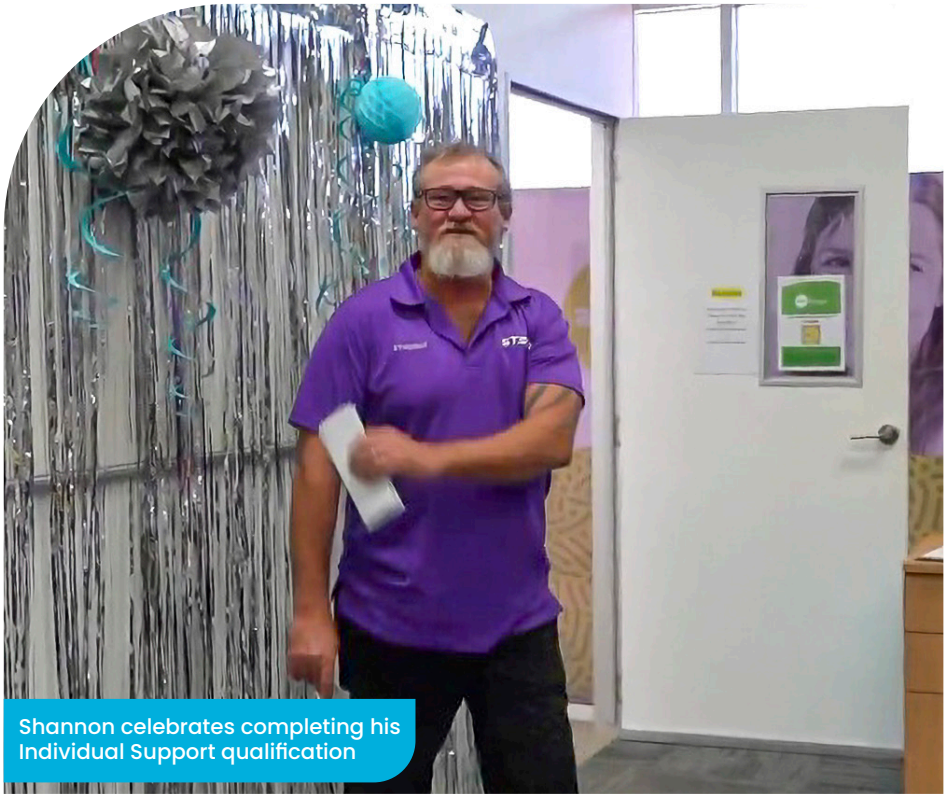
The STEPS SEE Program is now in Katherine

We're excited to bring our free, personalised STEPS SEE Program to the Katherine community, where we'll help locals develop their skills for work, study and life.

STEPS already has a presence in the community through our work with the Venndale Rehabilitation Centre, and we look forward to connecting with more participants.

With passionate trainers, a supportive environment and fun, hands-on learning activities, we are ready to help the Katherine community grow and open new doors to exciting opportunities.

Visit stepsgroup.com.au/SEE or call us on 1300 131 965 for more information or to apply, or drop in to our office at 40A Katherine Terrace, Katherine South to talk to our trainer!



Shannon celebrates completing his Individual Support qualification

Shannon's unexpected support worker journey

When Shannon first entered a STEPS Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) Program classroom in Bundaberg, he wasn't looking for a new career. He simply wanted to support his daughter, who was nervous about starting something new. Sometimes, the best journeys are the ones we never plan.

While attending his daughter's first CHC33021 Certificate III in Individual Support class, Shannon met Corey Anderson, one of STEPS' trainers. Corey's encouragement and the welcoming class planted a seed of inspiration, and Shannon decided to enrol in the course himself.

What began as a gesture of support soon became a personal journey of growth. Shannon discovered a passion for learning and a supportive community that believed in him. At graduation, he delivered an emotional speech, thanking Corey for making complex topics easier to understand and for always saying, "You can do it."

"Having someone believe in you makes all the difference," Shannon said.

Shannon's courage led him to pursue a full-time job as a Support Worker, a role that he loves. His story is a powerful reminder that learning is for everyone, at any stage of life.



Katherine participant celebrates access to essential government documents

STEPS ID cards empower participants in Katherine

Something small is creating big change in Katherine: a student ID card.

For many people in remote areas, accessing some services can be very difficult without formal identification. That's why STEPS Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) Program participants recently received their official STEPS ID cards.

The impact has been lifechanging. One young participant proudly used his new ID card to collect his birth certificate and then apply for a learner's permit. Before this, he had no formal documents and faced major barriers to independence.

The STEPS ID card helped him meet the identification requirements and pass his learner's test, opening up new pathways to goals that once felt out of reach.

"It's truly heartening to see how something so simple can have such a profound impact," said Danielle, a STEPS Trainer in Katherine.

The SEE Program doesn't just teach language, literacy, numeracy, and digital skills; it also helps participants access essential services and prepare them for work and study. In remote communities like Katherine, something as small as a plastic ID card can become a symbol of belonging and opportunity.

Participant Profile



Melissa Hewitt - Townsville

What was your main motivation for joining the SEE Program?

My goal is to develop strong digital skills that will prepare me for today's workforce. I want to gain the confidence to use technology in practical ways, like creating documents, managing data and communicating online. I ultimately want to find a job where I can apply these skills, continue learning and grow professionally.

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

The people, especially my classmates and our trainer, are what make this experience so special. Every day in class feels like a step forward, not just in gaining new skills but in strengthening the ones I already have. The support and encouragement from the group make the journey even more rewarding.

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

I'm learning to be more confident, taking the things I'm learning and putting them into practice. I'm learning how to write about a topic, edit my work and then create a Word document by touch typing. These skills are helping me become more independent and capable in both study and work.

What are your professional goals?

To get a job that gives me the opportunity to keep learning, help others and enjoy my work until it's time to retire.

What are your personal goals?

To become more confident in myself and my skills, and to stay positive even when there are setbacks.

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

Don't hesitate or doubt yourself. Take a step forward. All the learning material is tailored for you to help you grow. Sometimes, the work may really test you, but in the end, learning will become easier for you and you'll feel proud of what you've accomplished. You'll be joining a big support group that will help you every step of the way. I have no regrets about starting the STEPS SEE Program, my journey so far has helped me grow in so many ways. When I finish SEE, I'll walk out with friends who will always be there to remind me: I've got this.

STEPS

see skills for education and employment

An Australian Government Initiative



James' journey back to work

After stepping away from his taxi driving job to care for his elderly father, James was ready to return to work, but the digital demands of modern taxi driving felt overwhelming.

Through the STEPS Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) Program in Gordonvale, James received tailored support to build his digital literacy skills, reconnect with essential services, and navigate the technology needed to get back behind the wheel.

It wasn't easy. James faced moments of anxiety, but with persistence and guidance, he achieved his goal. Today, he's proudly driving Cairns Taxis and often drops by the Gordonvale STEPS site to visit his former trainers and peers for a friendly chat.

Trainer Mirjam, one of James' biggest supporters, said that "James showed incredible courage."

"Many people struggle to return to work when technology changes and life gets in the way," Mirjam said.

"But James didn't let fear stop him. He trusted the process and now he's thriving."

James' story proves that it's never too late to take the next step towards your goals.

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 Skills for Education and Employment (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.

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