



**ADULT
LEARNERS
WEEK 2020**
1-8 SEPTEMBER

#RenewYou

LAUNCH

Join the conversation, as comedian and author Catherine Deveny explores resilience and renewal through lifelong learning with our fantastic speakers.

DATE: Tuesday 1st Sept 2020

TIME: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

LOCATION: Online event



**Adult
Learning
Australia**

REGISTER: <https://tinyurl.com/ALWLaunch2020>



Our speakers

Catherine Deveny – our MC, is a writer, comedian, author and speaker well known for her work as a columnist with *The Age* newspaper, as a Melbourne International Comedy Festival favourite and as an ABC regular. She has appeared on ABC's Q&A and participated in the Emmy award winning *Go Back To Where You Came From* on SBS television.

Catherine has been named in the top 100 Most Influential Melburnians and has authored thousands of newspaper columns, but what you may not know is that she also has dyslexia.

Keynotes

Shane Fitzsimmons – During the recent bushfires, former NSW Rural Fire Service Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons had the trust of the nation. His leadership, honesty and steady hand helped guide NSW through one of the biggest natural disasters in the nation's history. But he wasn't always so well regarded. In fact, one of his teachers thought he would end up in jail.

Shane was a troubled teenager who didn't like rules and didn't finish high school. It was the local bushfire brigade that supported him and gave his life meaning. Today, Shane leads Resilience NSW, which sees him supporting communities to recover and rebuild after disasters and emergency situations.

Sean Sweeney – During the bushfire crisis, Sean stood beside Shane Fitzsimmons ensuring that the deaf community had access to vital emergency information. He was the first child with hearing in his mother's family in four generations. He grew up in a tight-knit deaf community and starting signing at 10 months of age. While he could sign in social circumstances, he had never interpreted vocationally until he was made redundant in 2000 and needed to forge a whole new career.

Special presentations

Heather Ewart – journalist and presenter of the popular ABC series *Back Roads*

Senator the Hon. Michaelia Cash – Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business

Our program

1:00 pm – 1:05 pm – Opening remarks – Catherine Deveny

1:05 pm – 1:20 pm – Acknowledgement of Country – Kira Bain – Tauondi Aboriginal College

1:20 pm – 1:25 pm – Introduction – Catherine Deveny

1:25 pm – 1:30 pm – A message from Heather Ewart – ABC Backroads

1:30 pm – 1:40 pm – Associate Professor Annette Foley – President, Adult Learning Australia

1:40 pm – 1:45 pm – Senator the Hon. Michaelia Cash

1:45 pm – 2:20 pm – Renewal through learning – Catherine Deveny interviews:

Shane Fitzsimmons – Resilience NSW Commissioner

Sean Sweeney – Advocate and Auslan interpreter during NSW bushfires

2:20 pm – 2:25 pm – Shane Fitzsimmons presents the scholarships

2:25 pm – 2:45 pm – Stories of learning – facilitated by Catherine Deveny

2019 winner Greg Nelson

2020 scholarships winners

2:45 pm – 2:55 pm – Music performance – Nina and Lyrebirds

2:55 pm – 3:00 pm – Closing remarks – Catherine Deveny