



About Adult Learners Week 2021  
1–8 September 2021

### **Media backgrounder**

Adult Learners Week is coordinated by Adult Learning Australia, the national peak body for adult and community education. It is a UNESCO initiative supported in Australia by the Commonwealth Department of Education, Skills and Employment and run each year in the first week of September.

Hundreds of events and activities will be held around Australia and online to promote the benefits of lifelong learning.

Any adult education and training organisation can get involved in Adult Learners Week including neighbourhood houses, community centres, libraries, training organisations, local governments, Aboriginal learning cooperatives, employers, not-for-profit organisations, workplaces, men's sheds, U3As, community colleges, TAFE colleges and universities.

### **Our theme – Change Your Story**

Covid-19 has created an urgent challenge in Australia that education can help to solve.

This year's theme for Adult Learners Week – Change Your Story — promotes the idea that people can take their lives in a new direction, make a fresh start and create a new future through adult education. With social distancing requirements in place, some organisations will be offering additional online courses and activities.

Adult education and learning can help people adapt to some of the challenges they face in a rapidly changing world. It can provide people with new knowledge, skills and confidence to successfully remain in or return to work. Adult education is also particularly important to support disadvantaged adults to re-engage with learning and improve their opportunities through further education.

Adult Learners Week showcases a wide range of learning and upskilling opportunities on offer around Australia. To find out more, or to find a local event, visit [adultlearnersweek.org](http://adultlearnersweek.org).



### **Adult Learners Week 2021 Scholarships**

Three #ALW2021 scholarships will be awarded to outstanding adult learners to enable them to continue learning either by taking a new learning pathway or continue an existing one. Adult learning providers are invited to nominate adult learners who are changing the trajectory of their lives through adult learning.

Nominations close on 30 August 2021.

### **Media interview opportunities**

The following are available for interview:

President of Adult Learning Australia, Associate Professor Annette Foley, Federation University

Young shearer Lauren Stirling who had trouble holding down any of the many jobs she's tried since she left school at 16 until she discovered a shearing course that changed her life. Now she's loving her new career.

FIFO worker Samuel Tierney who was always behind at school and set his career sights low because of his struggles with reading whose life was changed by a literacy tutor. Samuel can now read to his children and has his sights set on a marine engineering career.

Flamenco guitarist Paco Lara who is renowned in Europe who found himself in Australia an unknown with no English. Learning the language through English classes has helped Paco start all over again.

Single mother Chris Roland left school at 12 but took up education again in a domestic violence shelter and discovered a love of learning. Chris is rebuilding her life and through a course in Womens Studies hopes to graduate and give back by working with women recovering from violent relationships.

To arrange an interview, or for further information, please contact Margot Gorski on 0412 393 394 or at [margot@prmatters.com.au](mailto:margot@prmatters.com.au).