

# ADULT LEARNERS WEEK

1-8 SEPT 2024



# LAUNCH SPEAKERS



**TROY SINCOCK**  
**MC**

A Content Maker at ABC Radio Adelaide, Troy Sincock has worked at every radio station in Adelaide in roles as diverse as General Manager, Announcer,

and in the field as a Roving Reporter. Also, a coach, mentor and facilitator, Troy teaches podcasting, he is a voiceover artist, and one of the most in-demand DJs in Adelaide who brings the community together through music, promoting and curating events, and even holding popular record fairs for diverse music lovers. Troy values connection, authenticity and has an insatiable curiosity and thirst for learning.



**HON ANDREW GILES**  
**MINISTER FOR SKILLS AND TRAINING - AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT**

Andrew Giles is the Albanese Government's Minister for Skills and

Training and is the Federal Member for Scullin in Melbourne's north. He previously served in the Albanese Government as the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs. Born and raised in Melbourne, Andrew is a keen reader and runner and an avid supporter of the Carlton Football Club. Andrew has an LLB (Hons) and BSc from the University of Melbourne. Prior to his election to Parliament, Andrew worked as a Principal Lawyer in employment law at Slater and



**HON BLAIR BOYER**  
**MINISTER FOR EDUCATION TRAINING AND SKILLS - SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Blair lives in the northeastern suburbs of Adelaide with his wife and three daughters. He grew up on the family farm in rural Southwest Victoria, not far from Mount Gambier. He was elected to represent the State electorate of Wright in 2018 and was appointed Minister for Education Training and Skills in March 2022. Blair is passionate about education and believes that a strong, affordable and accessible public education system is the key to equality.



**MAGGIE BEER**  
**MAGGIE BEER FOUNDATION**

Maggie Beer is a much-loved and respected cook. Having established the Maggie Beer Foundation a decade ago, with a mission to set new standards and change the food and dining experience in the



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**(cont.)**

aged care sector, Maggie's mantra is "Make every mouthful count."

The wellbeing of people in aged care homes has long been a concern of Maggie's, and she is now working to leverage the links between food and health to ensure that aged care residents have access to nutritious and fresh food every day.

From the outset, the Foundation's strategy has been to advocate, educate, facilitate research, and share the latest knowledge and skills with the cooks and chefs who have the power to significantly improve the lives of the residents in their care.

Maggie Beer Foundation's education programs are now being rolled out across the nation, and we are witnessing the magic happen. By sharing our knowledge and expertise with kitchen teams and management, we see the smiles on residents' faces, the joy of families for their loved ones, empty plates, and a tear or two of happiness from all of us.

"It looks fresh, it tastes fresh, every mouthful counts!"

- Maggie Beer



**BRENZ SAUNDERS**  
CHAIRPERSON  
TAUONDI ABORIGINAL  
COLLEGE

Brenz is the Founder and Director of Cheedoona Energy, Chairperson of Tauondi Aboriginal

College and Chairperson of Far West Coast Investments. He is a strong and passionate advocate for digital inclusion in particular supporting greater opportunities to ensure digital accessibility and education for



**ISABEL OSUNA-GATTY**  
ADULT LEARNING  
AUSTRALIA BOARD  
MEMBER

Isabel is the recipient of the 2016 Australian Training Awards' Excellence in Language, Literacy, and Numeracy Practice. She has developed and implemented several local, state, and commonwealth-funded projects to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, people with disabilities, and individuals from multicultural backgrounds. Additionally, she worked as an external assessor and trainer for the SenaiNT English Language Centre in Timor Leste.



**KAMELLIA FORBES & MARK CATANZARITI**  
TRADITIONAL  
WELCOME AND  
SMOKING CEREMONY



Kam and Mark are valued members of the team at Tauondi Aboriginal College in Port Adelaide. They belong to the Kurna Miyurna people of the Kurna Yarta Nation in the Adelaide region.





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## LEARNING AMBASSADORS



### JOHN LINDSAY

John Lindsay, a 61-year-old River Ngarrindjeri man, embodies the spirit of lifelong learning and community education. Born in Barmera and raised on the Gerard Aboriginal Mission, John's upbringing was

rooted in strong cultural values and community involvement. He attended Winke Primary and Glossop High Schools and played local football. Throughout his career, John held various community roles, including grave digging, house repairs, and council jobs. His dedication extended to community-led projects like the Aboriginal Sobriety Group in the 1970s and '80s. Despite challenges such as inconsistent employment and limited literacy, John returned to education at Tauondi Aboriginal College in recent years. After completing a Skill Up Program, he is now enrolled in a Certificate I in Access to Vocational Pathways. As a respected Aboriginal mentor-leader, John supports others in their educational journeys, demonstrating his commitment to mentoring and lifelong learning. His presence in the classroom is inspiring, proving that learning and personal growth are ongoing processes. By continuing his education later in life and helping others, John demonstrates that personal transformation can happen at any age.



### FARAH NAZ

Farah, 45, arrived from Pakistan in November 2013. Despite her teaching experience, her qualifications weren't recognised in Australia. So, until 2021, Farah invested her years in looking after her family

and raising her three children. On a visit to the Salvation Army, Farah was recommended to the Morella Community Centre, where she was encouraged to participate in their gatherings and activities. Farah ended up enrolling in the Pathways to Children's Services course, which she completed in December 2021. In March 2022, Farah undertook a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care, before starting in 2023 as a Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) tutor with Novita. Currently, Farah is continuing her learning journey while working and is now pursuing a Diploma in Education Support. Her goal is to secure a position in a school as an assessment officer.



### CHRISTIANA DAVIES

Christiana came to Australia 18 years ago as a refugee from Sierra Leone. She has overcome many barriers in her learning journey, starting with building her foundation studies through the Australian

Migrant English Program and adapting to the Australian education system to achieve her Bachelor of Nursing. During her studies, she faced additional challenges, such as having



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to defer her education for a year after a difficult pregnancy and moving back and forth between Adelaide and Canberra. Despite these obstacles, she managed to keep learning and is currently finishing her postgraduate degree in mental health nursing while also working in the field. Christiana was also awarded a women in leadership scholarship by the South Australian Government and is now a leader and mentor in her community, serving as the Chairperson of the African Women's Foundation for South Australia.



## **TILLY TJALA THOMAS** *MUSICIAN*

Tilly Tjala Thomas is a Nukunu singer-songwriter, who grew up on the Fleurieu Peninsula, South of Adelaide. Since finishing school in 2020, the

electronic pop and indie musician has bagged numerous industry accolades, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Musician of the Year, NIMA Unearthed Award at the 2021 National Indigenous Music Awards and the Emily Burrows Award at the 2021 South Australian Music Awards. Tilly was awarded the Stigwood Artist Fellowship (2022) and released her first EP, Sanctuary.



## **HAYDON GRIGG**

Haydon, 28, faced challenges fitting into traditional schooling and ultimately failed Year 12 due to difficulties with reading, writing, and socialising with others. He enjoyed hands-on learning, but his

struggle with self-confidence led to a spiral of depression and anxiety. Haydon has overcome significant mental health challenges through Eastwood Community Centre's Adult and Community Education (ACE) programs. These classes and their support have been immensely beneficial, boosting Haydon's confidence and enabling him to live independently in his own unit. He started with a cooking program, which improved his ability to cook for himself, and he has now expanded his learning into using TikTok and podcasting.



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