

STEPS AMEP COMMUNITY NEWS

Teaching migrants English not only provides language skills that help to settle successfully in to life and work in Australia, it also provides a vital social aspect that helps build a sense of community, forms friendships and delivers a sense of belonging.

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**EDUCATION
& TRAINING**



We welcome new students, get in touch with us on **1300 585 868**

YOUR NEWS



Joel Stevens

Executive Manager
STEPS Education & Training

Welcome to our Summer Edition of the STEPS AMEP Newsletter, and a big welcome back to all of our students for a new year of learning at STEPS.

We've had a fun summer here at STEPS and it's been great to see everyone get into the Christmas spirit and really celebrate what's special about summer in Australia (including close encounters with the Australian wildlife!).

I hope you all continue to enjoy the valuable experience of learning English, as well as set new goals for your life in Australia made possible through improved language skills.

Our aim is to make learning fun and meaningful for our students, and provide a friendly environment where all of our students feel supported.

I look forward to seeing old and new faces in 2019 and working with you to achieve your goals in the Adult Migrant English Program.

Best regards,

Joel Stevens



AMEP NOW IN ALICE SPRINGS

Philip Allnutt is the Business Manager at STEPS Alice Springs. Formerly a high school teacher of 16 years, Philip has spent the last few years in adult education and training and is passionate about teaching migrants English language skills to help them settle into life and work in Australia.

He enjoys working with the broad range of diverse cultures in Alice Springs.

"I really enjoy supporting migrant students in a very flexible language and literacy program. Teaching English is so important for people to feel connected and have a sense of belonging, helping them settle in the Alice Springs community," Philip said.

Philip believes that AMEP provides students with a network and the opportunity for socialisation helping them to achieve their goals.



NEW FACEBOOK PAGE

Connect with us on Facebook for up to date AMEP news and events straight from the Northern Territory. See what we are up to in the classroom and share with your family and friends!

www.facebook.com/STEPS-AMEP



FREE CHILDMINDING WHILE YOU STUDY

Free child care is available for children who are under school age while students attend their AMEP classes in Darwin.

Casuarina has a crèche located next to the STEPS office, allowing clients to place their children in care while they attend morning classes from 8:30am - 2pm.

The crèche staff provide child minding services with easy access to the children if required enabling AMEP parents to study.

Palmerston students can apply for their child to attend external day care centres to suit their location while they attend classes, for more information and bookings speak to our staff.

 **1300 585 868**



HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING IN AUSTRALIA FOR 5 YEARS OR MORE?

You may still be eligible for **FREE** English classes.

Call us to find out if you're eligible:

DARWIN

 **1300 585 868**

ALICE SPRINGS

 **08 8950 7600**

STUDENT PROFILE

Lampai Cooper STEPS AMEP Student

Lampai commenced studying AMEP last year in June.

Where are you from?

My name is Pai and I come from Thailand.

What do you like about living in Australia so far?

I like living in Australia, I have been here first in 2012 then went back to Thailand with my husband. I came back and forwards a little bit. I like Australia, I like the people, it makes me happy. I like my house in Australia with my husband.

What helps to bring you a sense of belonging here in Australia?

I go out to restaurants with my husband on Fridays often, we

also go to the markets, and I like gardening and socialising with others both Australian and Thai people. I like all people!

What is one of your dreams in life?

I would love to heal people and make their lives better.

Anything you would like to share with us about yourself?

I have a husband Geoff, and we have a nice house, I have two sons in Thailand, 34 and 28 years old, and I have two grandsons in Thailand. I like coming to study and I love being around people.



RABECA FINDS HER DREAM JOB

South Sudanese migrant and AMEP student Rabeca Atem has the world at her feet after securing work in her chosen field of child care with the help of STEPS.

Rabeca began studying English in September last year, and after finding her dream job at a Crèche recently, she continues her English studies at the night classes provided by STEPS Casuarina.

Having worked in a children's home in Kenya, Rabeca is a passionate and caring person with the ability to connect with children of all ages.

“ I love the childcare industry and love helping children develop their social, intellectual and motor skills. ”
~ Rabeca

Creche manager Vena Nyandoro said Rabeca is a real asset to their team.

“It feels like she's been here forever, she fits right in and always arrives first to work and gets everything organised,” Vena said.



STEPS staff supported Rabeca through her employment journey by assisting her to apply for her Ochre card and by referring her to employment opportunities in the local area.

“ I really like and enjoy coming to the AMEP, I like all the staff and students, and I like to learn. I love coming to class for social reasons, I get to meet people and learn about them, create friends, and it helps make me happy in Australia. ”

I love Australia!
~ Lampai

STAFF PROFILE

David Cairns STEPS AMEP Lead Teacher Darwin

David is the Lead AMEP Teacher in Darwin, at both Casuarina and Palmerston campuses.

David says he loves the diversity of his job and the people. He believes that the AMEP helps to connect people.

“It's not just about learning English, it's also the social aspect that the classes provide to connect people,” David said.



“ STEPS is a great organisation, a business with heart, and I'm really pleased to be a part of it. ~ David ”

YOUR COMMUNITY

Nikolaos Ergas from Greece meets a baby crocodile.

A CLASSIC AUSTRALIAN WELCOME FOR OUR AMEP STUDENTS – NORTHERN TERRITORY STYLE.

The students of the STEPS' Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) in Darwin have experienced a real taste of Australia as they participated in fun, interactive workshops that were classically Australian in nature.

The workshops were designed to offer the new migrants that have signed up to the upcoming AMEP classes an opportunity to connect and learn about life outside the classroom in the Northern Territory before they embark on their AMEP English studies this year.

Topics of the workshops included Australia's Deadliest Animals, Quintessential Australian Stories such as the story of Vincent Lingiari *"From Little Things, Big Things Grow"*, *Red Dog* and *The Great Emu War*. Disaster Preparation was also on the agenda being very

topical after the recent cyclone Marcus caused a lot of damage to Darwin.

STEP' lead AMEP teacher David Cairns said the students loved the different classes and really engaged with lively discussions benefiting greatly from the social aspect of the workshops.

“The idea behind learning about classic Australian stories is that they help bring an understanding of culture. ~ David”

“The students also really enjoy meeting new classmates, discovering new topics, excursions and guest speakers.”



Kanta Phomjantha from Thailand and 'Jimmy' the baby wallaby.

AMEP teacher Anne Lutton also believes the classes provide a different forum for learning and cover topics that form a necessary part to settling in to Darwin life.

“As teachers, we also benefit from teaching in a different way, and gain the personal rewards from teaching the students here in this unique format,” Anne said.

Student Sharareh from Iran said she especially liked learning about the animals as did student Julia from China.

“Everything here is good for me, I am happy and I like improving my English and writing,” Sharareh said.

Before coming to Australia I didn't know about the animals, and I have even been in the water, as I wasn't aware of the crocodiles,” Sharareh said.

“I like Australia because Darwin is a small town and life is quiet,” Julia said.

At the Palmerston classes students had a visit from a registered wildlife carer and the opportunity to cuddle a baby wallaby.

STEPS Palmerston business manager Yvonne Coleman said the students absolutely adored the visit.

“The registered wildlife carer spoke about the types of Australian wallabies and the difference between wallabies and kangaroos, it was a wonderful way to introduce the migrant students to Australian wildlife and also have a cuddle,” Yvonne said.

“I liked the Australian stories' workshop, especially *Crocodile Dundee*, as living in the outback is very different. ~ Julia”

Fenying Zhu (Julia) from China gets up close with a baby 'croc'.



Arlyn Canete from the Philippines having a cuddle with 'Jimmy'.

NETPREYA FINDS COMMUNITY AT STEPS

Relocating to another country is a brave move; moving overseas can often mean negotiating new language, cultural, and social barriers.

Netpreya moved from Thailand to Australia in 2016 and enrolled in the AMEP in Palmerston to focus on improving her English skills.

Recently completing her studies, Netpreya received a Certificate II in Spoken and Written English, and sat down with us to talk about her study experience.

"We had people from many parts of the world," Netpreya said of her class at STEPS.

She said she grew very close to the students and staff and would sometimes get together out of class time too.

Finding a friendly and welcoming community at STEPS, Netpreya said the best part about studying there was the people.

"Our trainer was very nice and everyone was so welcoming," she said.

"The trainers would sit with you one on one and help you if you needed."

AMEP provides free English lessons to help people work, study and enjoy life in Australia.

STEPS can provide up to 510 hours of free English language lessons to migrants and humanitarian entrants.

Executive manager of STEPS Education and Training Joel Stevens said STEPS aims to provide more than English language lessons.

"At STEPS we want to create a welcoming community and support migrants and refugees as they settle into life in Australia.

"That's why our program covers a range of topics that will assist in everyday life in Australia and provides a range of additional services including free child care and home tutoring," Joel said.

“ At STEPS we want to create a welcoming community and support migrants and refugees as they settle into life in Australia. ~ Joel ”



Netpreya
STEPS AMEP Student

Joel Stevens
Executive Manager
STEPS Education
& Training



IN THE CLASSROOM

Our classroom is more than just a space to learn, it's the centre of our AMEP community:

Casuarina students visit The Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory Spiders Exhibition.



Casuarina student Soma completes his AMEP modules.



Casuarina celebrates Australia Day with iconic poems, songs and dishes.



Palmerston students tuck into their Australia Day lunch!



St John's Ambulance teach first aid essentials to Casuarina students.

RECENT EVENTS



Santa arrived in Darwin for the Christmas party.

CASUARINA CHRISTMAS PARTY 2018

After a busy and successful year of training at the Casuarina campus, there was cause for celebration in December. It was also a time to reflect on the past year and to cherish the friendships that were made through the AMEP classes.

Students, their families, staff and volunteers had a wonderful day singing Christmas songs and playing music together. Christmas lunch followed with beautiful dishes from around the globe prepared by the students and staff.

It was a great way to end the year and celebrate the connections made through learning.



Mission Australia staff with donated food for the homeless from the Palmerston students.

MIGRANTS HELP THE HOMELESS

On Australia Day at the Darwin campus students made a selection of classic Australian style dishes to gift to a local charity that supports vulnerable people.

As a gesture of kindness, Palmerston STEPS staff and students wanted to be able to 'give back' to their community as well as have fun while learning about some of the more typical and well known Australian dishes.

Platters of lamingtons and vegemite and cheese sandwiches were prepared by the students and donated to Mission Australia, a charity that cares for homeless people in the local Darwin area and assists disadvantaged families and children.



AMEP launches in Alice

In a great win for the community and thanks to local migrant services advocate, Marguerite Baptiste-Rooke, Alice Springs will now have free English language classes for migrants.

STEPS Alice Springs held an open information night on February 19 to provide information about the new AMEP classes to the community.

Marguerite Baptiste-Rooke said being able to communicate with other people is high on the list of critical needs of the immigrants settling into life in Australia.

"For the migrants and refugees that arrive to Alice Springs, the most vital need is to learn English language skills in a face-to-face learning environment," Marguerite said.

Philip and Marguerite look forward to welcoming new students to classes starting soon.

THE GIFT OF GIVING

The spirited team at STEPS Darwin wanted to end the year by rounding up a beautiful Christmas hamper of goods to gift to one of their students.

Indah Julianty from Indonesia is a level three AMEP student, and

was the surprised winner of the hamper.

"Thank you, I don't know what to say, I want to cry," said Indah

The hamper had a lot of fun Christmas themed items, including games and vouchers and the staff really enjoyed the opportunity to give and celebrate the festive season.

The Casuarina team gift a hamper.



ON THE HORIZON



ALICE SPRINGS STARTS NEW CLASSES

Day and evening classes starting soon. Call us for class times.

 **08 8950 7600**

New students are welcome.

JOIN OUR DARWIN CLASSES

CASUARINA EVENING CLASSES

Tuesday and Wednesdays
6pm to 9pm

CASUARINA DAY CLASSES

Monday to Friday
8:30am to 2pm

PALMERSTON DAY CLASSES

Monday to Friday
8.30am to 2.30pm



 **1300 585 868**

All levels.

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Learn practical English to help you access services, work, study, and enjoy your life in Australia!

We welcome new students, and returning students.

Call us today for information on eligibility or starting your free English lessons with steps.

 **1300 585 868**

For translation services call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 before phoning.



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STEPS

**EDUCATION
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AMEP
Adult Migrant English Program
An Australian Government Initiative

We welcome new students, get in touch with us on **1300 585 868** or visit **www.stepsamep.com.au**

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