

LAUNCH

**ADULT
LEARNERS
WEEK 2021**

1-8 SEPTEMBER

Change your story

Be inspired by people who have
changed their life story through learning.

DATE: Wednesday 1st Sept 2021

TIME: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

FREE EVENT

REGISTER: <https://tinyurl.com/ALWLaunch2021>



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.

Our speakers

Simon Fenech – A workplace accident changed Simon's life forever. He went from a happy home and family life into drug addiction, and eventually jail. Inside prison he began a slow process of recovery through education but the reality of post-prison life hit hard. Just when it seemed like things couldn't get any worse, a chance opportunity turned his life around. Today Simon is an operations manager at social enterprise Fruit2Work where he inspires and mentors others, helping them get their lives back on track.

Lana Masterson – Lana runs the social enterprise Down The Track, which is a life-changing program targeting marginalised young people in the small town of Lake Cargelligo. Down the Track is changing the lives of disengaged youth through mentorship, practical education, training, employment and wellbeing support.

Ian Roberts – Former rugby league champion turned actor Ian Roberts has led an extraordinary life. He was the first and only openly gay man to have played in the league. But Ian had a bigger secret. He had difficulty reading and writing. And it wasn't until he reached the age of 37 that he got help in the form of a mentor who gave him faith in his ability to learn. And he's never looked back.

Our program

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

1:05 pm – 1:10 pm – Associate Professor Annette Foley – President, Adult Learning Australia

1:10 pm – 1:25 pm – Anthem combined performance, acknowledgement of Country –
Joe Geia renowned First Nations singer-songwriter

1:25 pm – 1:30 pm – Introduction – Catherine Deveny

1:30 pm – 1:35 pm – A message from The Hon. Stuart Robert MP –
Minister for Employment, Workforce, Skills, Small and Family Business (TBC)

1:35 pm – 2:20 pm – Change your story – Catherine Deveny interviews:

Simon Fenech – Author | Operations Manager – Fruit2Work

Lana Masterson – Coordinator – Down the track

Ian Roberts – Actor, activist, rugby league great

2:20 pm – 2:40 pm – #ALW2021 ambassadors share stories of learning – facilitated by Catherine Deveny

Lauren Stirling – who discovered a shearing course that changed her life

Sam Timney – whose life was changed by a literacy tutor

2:40 pm – 2:50 pm – Announcing of ALW2021 Scholarship Winners

2:50 pm – 3:00 pm – Closing remarks and musical performance –

Paco Lara – acclaimed Spanish flamenco guitarist, Adult Migrant English Program learner