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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

### **Childcare support opens door to childcare career**

Access to childcare under the Australian Government Department of Education and Training funded Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) is one of the reasons Inala resident Miyako Dabrowski is now enjoying a successful career in early childhood education.

Arriving in Australia with her husband and child in 2009, Miyako was keen to work and contribute to her family's income. She soon found work but quickly realised she needed to improve her English to effectively function in the Australian workplace.

Miyako planned to enrol in the AMEP following the birth of her second child, but after discovering the cost of childcare she almost gave up hope. Then she learned that AMEP students are provided with free childcare while in class.

"Without the AMEP childcare support at that time, it would have been impossible for me to study, as my husband and I could not live on just his one salary with two children in childcare," she said.

Miyako commenced her AMEP studies at TAFE Queensland South West Inala and quickly impressed teachers with her determination to improve her English and learn about potential career paths.

One pathway in particular caught her interest, childcare — the very industry that made her AMEP studies possible.

During the course, Miyako joined a 10-week work experience program for eligible AMEP students, which focussed on childcare.

She gained valuable insight into the language required for the job and the work involved. But it was her two-week work experience placement that ultimately sold her on pursuing a career in the field.

In 2014 she completed her Certificate III in Spoken and Written English under the AMEP, which enabled her to enrol in a Diploma of Childcare at TAFE Queensland in Springfield.

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While studying her Diploma she completed a six-month work placement at the Aspen Community Child Care Centre.

Staff and management were so impressed with her skills and passion that they offered her casual work after she completed her Diploma in 2015. Miyako is now employed full time at the facility and has been elevated to the role of Lead Educator.

“Miyako is a member of the Aspen family. She has brought her beautiful, caring personality to complement our multicultural staff,” Aspen Community Child Care Centre Service Manager Kerrie Wilson said.

“Aspen Community Child Care are very impressed with the students from TAFE Queensland. Both the students and the centre are very well supported by teachers and support staff from TAFE and we find that their knowledge is much more extensive than those from private colleges,” she added.

Miyako said she owes much of her success to her AMEP teachers and the work experience course.

“I would not have the confidence and skills to achieve this goal so quickly if I didn’t study in the AMEP and have the opportunity to do the work experience course,” she said.

TAFE Queensland South West AMEP Coordinator Deb Favier said the AMEP provides migrants and humanitarian entrants with a great platform to successfully settle and confidently participate socially and economically in Australia.

“Thanks to the flexibility of the AMEP, students like Miyako can focus on gaining the skills they need to settle into the community and achieve their employment goals,” she said.

**Photo Caption: Miyako proudly wearing her work uniform.**

**ENDS**

**Further information:**

#### **About the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP)**

The AMEP provides up to 510 hours of free English language tuition to eligible migrants from the skilled, family and humanitarian visa streams, to help them learn English to assist with their settlement in Australia. The AMEP is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. In Queensland, the AMEP is delivered through TAFE Queensland. For more information please visit [tafeqld.edu.au/tells](http://tafeqld.edu.au/tells).

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