Reuben Fredrickson moved to Kangaroo Island six months ago and connected with the Kangaroo Island Community Centre to access support connecting to his community, securing housing and accessing employment services. The Kangaroo Island Community Centre runs an Adult Community Education cooking program supporting students to re-engage with learning whilst connecting with other students and creating social connections. The Homelessness Support Service run by Junction Australia referred Reuben to the program.

Reuben is dyslexic and reading and writing were causing major barriers for him in traditional learning environments. Staff at the Kangaroo Island Community Centre worked closely with Reuben and soon recognised that his preferred learning style was using practical skills. The Adult Community Education cooking program proved to be the perfect fit for Reuben, providing him with the skills he needed to in a safe and nurturing learning environment.

Reuben attended the program each week, was an enthusiastic participant and became a great asset for the group. He found learning life skills in the class, particularly how to budget, changed the way he viewed his life management skills. Managing a private rental on his own for the first was a challenge for Reuben and the budgeting skills he learnt have helped him to manage his household budget.

The practical skills he learnt during his time participating in the Adult Community Education program helped him realise a potential career in the hospitality industry, with other students recognising his great conversational skills and ability to connect with others.

Since leaving the Adult Community Education program, Reuben had since gained full-time employment with a local café and is thriving.