FocusOne Health’s accredited Adult Community Education program ‘In the Name of Art’ is an eleven-week interactive community arts program delivered in the Riverland. In the Name of Art improves literacy and numeracy skills through artistic mediums, ultimately supporting participants connect to new learning, earning and volunteer opportunities.

Participants engage in learning a range of art techniques that support the development of foundation skills. The program provides a safe environment for students to learn new skills in an interactive environment. This approach attracts students who otherwise may not have engaged with a learning program.

The program was structured to be interactive and fun to maintain group interest and maximise attendance. Transport was offered to participants to living within a 40km geographical reach to counteract the transport issues existing within the region. Student support requirements were considered and addressed accordingly, including the learning needs of individuals, access, cultural issues, motivation and personal crisis. Session content was interactive and a range of learning styles (visual, audio and kinaesthetic) were incorporated into session plans to accommodate individual student learning needs.

By program completion, students communicated with higher levels of confidence, felt a sense of achievement and had purpose and direction going forward.

Twenty-five students enrolled in the program and at the course end, 20 participants obtained a TAFE SA accredited unit from the Foundation Skills Certificate. Additional outcomes include students enrolling in further study; commencing volunteering; and employment.

In the Name of Art was recently named 2018 Adult Learning Program of the Year in the 2018 Adult Learners’ Week Awards. FocusOne Health’s Adult Community Education programs are now well established and have become a popular and sought-after service in the Riverland community.