

PO Box 313 Northbridge Post Shop 6865

## ACAL REPORT TO WAALC AGM

July 2012

### **National Foundation Skills Strategy**

The draft NFSS was submitted to the National Senior Officials Committee (NSOC) meeting prior to its being sent to the Standing Council on Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment (ministers) late in November 2011.

The NFSS has now been endorsed by Ministers but is yet to be released publicly.

### **Joint Statement of Principle**

Plans to contribute to the drafting of a short statement of principle about adult learning and adult literacy in conjunction with the Australian Education Union (AEU) and Adult Learning Australia (ALA) to be used to generate further discussion with other stakeholders (including the Trades Union Council) were not completed. The intention was to form a coalition of non-government organisations to demand that there is more meaningful consultation from Government with relevant stakeholders as a part of policy making.

However the ACAL Executive was not happy with the framing of adult literacy that the other organisations wanted to adopt. Specifically there was no commitment to critiquing the dominant economic discourse which reaffirms the deficit model. As a result, ACAL withdrew its endorsement.

### **Foundation Skills Training Package**

Four state councils reported that they were sending responses to the consultation paper on the new Training Package (NSW, QLD, Vic and WA). The Training Package will not be ready until end 2012.

### **National Conference**

The 2012 Conference will be held in Hobart on 19 – 21 September. The theme this year is: ***Joining The Pieces: Literacy and Numeracy – one part of the picture.*** Early bird discounts close on July 31, 2012. Website address <http://www.tcal.org.au/>

### **ACAL website**

A new look and updated website has been developed, with significant input from Don and Geri: [www.acal.edu.au](http://www.acal.edu.au). There will be more emphasis on regular issues of ACAL eNews – WAALC members are invited to collect news items and send them to the ACAL rep.

### **ACAL eNews**

The ACAL executive is committed to issuing a regular newsletter and this will follow each executive committee meeting (approximately every 6 weeks.) WAALC committee will be asked to contribute copy (needs to be brief) on a regular basis (i.e. after each ACAL Exec meeting). This should focus on future events or achievement or interesting developments in this state (50 words maximum). So far, Emilia wrote an article about the Driver Education Program at Karrayili at Fitzroy Crossing and our conference has also featured.

### **Generating public debate**

One of the priority action areas for ACAL in 2012 has been to create additional means to foster debate. The idea of conducting "webinars" was mooted. Since WA uses the virtual classroom for LLN provision and other functions, it could be that WAALC would like to take on responsibility for organising a limited number of national discussion groups in Elluminate on behalf of ACAL. We ran two webinars in May about the draft Foundation Skills Training Package with some representation from Victorian and New South Wales ACAL members.

### **ACAL Response to the VET Professional Associations Project**

Exec has decided to put in a written response to this project underway at Victoria Uni.

<http://tdc.vic.edu.au/activities-and-projects/vet-professional-associations-project>

The aim is to make sure that the activities ACAL already undertakes are formally recognised as proposals are formulated, and that issues pertinent to the sub-set of VET sector staff (LLN teachers) are recognised if a new formal structure is set up.

*Report prepared by Susan Bates Acting ACAL rep (May-June 2012) based on reports to WAALC by Margaret McHugh (ACAL member representing WAALC July 2011 – April 2012).*