

PO Box 313 Northbridge Post Shop 6865

## **Challenge: Describe how you could represent WAALC at the ACAL Conference 2012 in Hobart Tasmania**

***'Joining the pieces: Literacy and numeracy - one part of the picture'***

**19, 20, 21 September 2012**

WAALC has decided to offer one individual the opportunity to attend the ACAL Conference with full reimbursement of travel, registration and accommodation costs up to the value of \$2000.00. However, to receive this valuable support, applicants need to demonstrate that they have thought about how their attendance will influence both the conference and their local context on return.

***Note: WAALC reserves the right not to award this sponsorship if no applicant is deemed to have met the challenge.***

### **The Challenge**

***Read this and then complete the application form.***

#### **Adult literacy: the teaching of reading, writing and numeracy to adults**

As a field of education, adult literacy sits outside of the mainstream in many ways. There is a powerful stigma that prevents many people from coming forward to access help to improve their literacy and numeracy skills, and there are some powerful myths about literacy and intelligence that maintains that stigma.

Raising awareness about the stigma and myths is a central aspect of being an adult literacy practitioner. It is not someone else's job. As an adult literacy teacher, you will have first hand knowledge of the issues faced by adults who struggle with literacy and numeracy, and it is your responsibility to contribute to exposing, challenging and disarming the literacy stigma.

Participation in adult literacy professional development events is an important aspect of addressing the stigma. It is important for the development of the adult literacy field that the critical insights of experienced tutors are made available to others, and that the awareness of the social and political issues that underpin adult literacy are brought to the awareness of the literacy field and the wider community.

What do you think everyone in the wider community should know about adult literacy in Australia? What do you think that those adults who do struggle with literacy and numeracy should know about adult literacy in Australia?

What should people connected to the adult literacy field know about adult literacy (teachers, tutors, researchers and decision-makers)?

## Application to represent WAALC at the ACAL Conference 2012

If you were supported by WAALC to attend the ACAL Conference this year, what would you do to raise awareness of issues such as the literacy stigma, and the injustices related to adult literacy practices in Australia? How and what would you contribute to discussions, conversations and presentations at the ACAL Conference. What would your main message be and what would be the challenges you would mount?

Describe your plan to bring a critical element to interaction at the ACAL Conference. What new insights, knowledges and challenges would you leave with the people you meet and talk to? What would you make of the opportunity to contribute to the adult literacy field in Australia? How would this contribute to/benefit adult literacy practice in WA, and change the world a little bit? You don't need to have extensive experience in adult literacy. We are looking for someone who understands the importance of raising awareness and disarming the adult literacy stigma and has the heart to do it.

*Write a minimum of 600 words. Attach as separate document or expand this section to suit.*

*Please also attach a signed brief statement of support from a colleague in the adult literacy field.*

### Personal Details

Full Name: .....

Address:.....

Phone number

Email

*Describe roles (paid and unpaid) relevant to teaching literacies and numeracies to adults within the last decade.*

Year/s	Organisation/Location	Role

Have you ever been a member of a professional association related to adult literacy (i.e. ACAL, WAALC or equivalent from another state or country)? YES/NO

If Yes, please name:

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**Applications must be received by 5:00 pm WST 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2012**

**Email to [info@waalc.org.au](mailto:info@waalc.org.au) or post to WAALC Po Box 313 Northbridge 6865**