

As Western Australia's ACAL Representative, I have enjoyed a year of growth and learning working alongside an amazing network of professionals for all states and NT (no representation in the ACT). The committee has sadly farewelled some members as they leave (executive and state reps) and welcome new members and co-opted members who have provided further support. We are coming together on February 4<sup>th</sup> 2023 for a single face-to-face meeting in Adelaide.

Below is a summary of work conducted by ACAL in 2021-2022.

As outlined in the ACAL President report for the 2022 AGM, ACAL has over the last 12 months:

1. provided leadership in Australian debate on adult literacy and numeracy practices and policy
2. helped build an understanding of adult literacy and numeracy issues
3. advocated on behalf of equitable adult literacy and numeracy provision for all Australians
4. built links between people, organisations and systems; the participants and stakeholders in the adult literacy and numeracy field
5. we work with other organisations on issues of mutual concern.

Activities of the last 12 months include:

- With the impact of Covid, ACAL has provided an online "stretched conference" as an alternative to a face-to-face conference featuring 14 different speakers (including our own Margy Cullity) and partnered with six other organisations to share these presentations. <https://acal.edu.au/2021-conference/>
- Ongoing webinars: <https://acal.edu.au/webinars/>
- Participated in a range of reviews including: the Parliamentary Inquiry <https://acal.edu.au/acals-submission-to-the-parliamentary-inquiry-into-adult-literacy-and-its-importance/>, The Foundation Skills Framework draft, PIAAC, The Training Awards for the VET sector, and the review of the ACSF and SEE as well as keeping up to date on other areas of interest including FSFYF, the AMEP, literacy in Corrections, legal literacy, and health literacy.
- Working with state CALS on a range of projects and providing advice, for example, advising TAC WA, in conjunction with WAALC, to clarify advice to RTOs registered with TAC in relation to its foundation skills support responsibilities, which resulted in new information sheets and a podcast featuring the WAALC President on the TAC website.
- Gaining a seat on the Education Industry Reference Committee, where we advocate for better delivery of foundation skills in the VET sector.
- Lost for Words season 2 – not only highlighting the issues of adult literacy barriers, but has also sparked huge interest from people wishing to volunteer as tutors. This has proven an effective way to identify what is a very real life issue in Australia and help the wider community understand the personal impact this issue has on people's lives. Here's a survey for those who may be interested <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5C8LL59>
- ACAL has been working with the Australian Apprenticeship & Traineeship Information Service to address the issue of literacy support and pre-apprenticeship literacy screening. This is a challenge also seen in WA
- having representation on the Australian Training Award for LLN Practice as a judge
- Working closely with a range of other literacy partners such as the Reading, Writing Hotline, Adult Learning Australia

- Profile of LN Practitioners to explore and share the amazing work of educators across the country (please keep profile candidates in mind as this is my ACAL Rep task!)
- 2021 Arch Nelson Address with Lorraine Sushames, 'Moments in time – tensions, trajectories and intersections' <https://acal.edu.au/2021-arch-nelson-address/>

For more details on what ACAL has been working on, see the latest ACAL AGM President's report here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/18-VFUJNbHCKywCENdGf41V5MYYC0SAbG/view>

The most recent newsletter here: <https://mailchi.mp/e33b549039fc/acal-november-eneews-research-reports-webinars>

The Arch Nelson Address: Women's Education – making a difference, Presenter: Caralyn Lammas <https://acal.edu.au/arch-nelson-address-womens-education-making-a-difference/>