



Media release

Adult Learning Australia welcomes continued engagement with the Minister for Skills and Training

Adult Learning Australia (ALA) congratulates the Hon. Andrew Giles on his continued stewardship of the Skills and Training portfolio. ALA looks forward to continuing to work with the Minister to expand lifelong learning opportunities and ensure that all Australians, especially adult learners, can access the education, skills and training they need to thrive and prosper.

“Minister Giles has shown a strong commitment to ensuring access to quality skills and training, particularly for adults needing support with literacy and numeracy,” said Jenny Macaffer, CEO of ALA.

“We now urge him to take the next step and champion a coordinated, intergovernmental strategy for lifelong learning that promotes access, equity and pathways for adult learners in every jurisdiction.”

As the national peak body for adult and community education (ACE), ALA is committed to a robust, inclusive education, skills and training system that responds to the diverse needs of learners and communities, particularly those who are disadvantaged or disengaged from formal education.

A national lifelong learning policy that includes ACE would complement and enhance the role of TAFE by providing broader, more flexible learning pathways. Such a policy would move beyond the scope of the National Skills Agreement by recognising all forms of learning, formal, informal and non-formal, across institutions, workplaces, and community settings.

This kind of forward-looking policy would help dismantle narrow distinctions between vocational and non-vocational learning and fully acknowledge the value of diverse educational experiences in building an inclusive, adaptive and engaged society,” said Ms Macaffer.

Lifelong learning must be central to building a fairer, more skilled and resilient Australia,” she added. “It’s also key to tackling the social and economic challenges we face, from technological disruption to the ageing population.”

“Opportunities to learn throughout life are essential, not just for a skilled workforce but for healthier communities, personal wellbeing and a vibrant democratic society.”

ALA will seek an early meeting with Minister Giles to continue the dialogue on ensuring all Australian adults have access to meaningful education, training and skills opportunities.”

About Adult Learning Australia

Adult Learning Australia, operating for 65 years, is the national peak body for the nonprofit adult and community education (ACE) sector. Its membership encompasses both organisations and individuals from every state and territory, representing the sector's diversity.

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