



MEDIA RELEASE

Adult Learning Australia looks forward to continuing to work with the Albanese Government on adult education

Adult Learning Australia (ALA), the national peak body for adult and community education, congratulates the Albanese Government on its re-election, and looks forward to continuing to work with the Government to strengthen lifelong learning and adult and community-based education.

ALA CEO, Jenny Macaffer, said that “it is now time for a national lifelong learning policy that recognises the important role of adult and community education (ACE)”.

“Lifelong learning is key to tackling Australia’s social and economic challenges, and we need investment to build the sector’s capacity and ensure learners outside mainstream education pathways are not left behind.”

Ms Macaffer said ACE plays a vital role in supporting second-chance learners, equipping people with skills for a changing world, and strengthening communities.

“ACE has a long history of helping people from all walks of life - especially those who need flexible, supportive learning environments. But right now, many community providers are under pressure. Rising costs and declining resources are making it hard to provide the level of services required.”

“Without targeted funding and policy support, the sector’s ability to do this important work is at risk. There is also an urgent need for sustained investment in wrap-around services that help disadvantaged learners engage in education and training,” she said.

A national policy that includes ACE would also complement and enhance the role of TAFE by offering broader, more inclusive learning pathways outside formal training.

Such a policy would recognise all forms of learning, formal, informal, and non-formal, across institutions, workplaces, and community settings. It would help move beyond narrow distinctions between vocational and non-vocational learning and fully acknowledge the diverse value of educational experiences in building a more inclusive, adaptive, and engaged learning society.

ALA will seek an early meeting with the Government to discuss developing a national lifelong learning policy, ensuring all Australians have access to education and training opportunities beyond the school years - throughout life.

**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.

Media contact

Visit www.ala.asn.au or call 03 9689 8623 for more information.

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