

# Editorial



## Each Executive Director of ALA has made a significant contribution at the organisation as it has moved forward.

Ron Anderson (CEO) has introduced many during his tenure, a period characterised by the dismantling of the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) and the funding shift to the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST).

To mention but a few of those initiatives, and the ones I believe Ron sees as being significant, I would like to comment on the introduction to ALA of the role of Visiting Research Fellows – individuals who are recognised as being important contributors in the field of adult education and who provide sound policy research. ALA has expanded this capacity greatly over the past three years to the point where our direct and indirect research has had a marked input into many important policy documents.

There has also been the deliberate shift in direction which supports quantitative research that will assist the ACE sector to present an aggregated picture of its achievements. The commissioning of such research through the ALA Visiting Researchers, Choy and Haukka, must be noted here as we have identified that 15.6% of all accredited training provided in Australia is provided through the ACE sector. We have begun to identify what those accredited programs and their AQF levels are and are currently working on the development of a Register of accredited and non-accredited programs delivered through ACE nationally. The high response to this survey demonstrates that many others believe we are examining an important area, one that needs to be fully explored if ACE is to be properly represented at state, territory and national levels.

On a personal level, Ron's solid-based, frank and friendly communications skills have allowed the disparate elements of the membership and sector to speak as one coherent voice. At a membership and government level, he has fostered a strengthening of the relationship between all parties and allowed ALA to play an appropriate role linking the two. At a governance level, he has worked tirelessly to streamline and update office procedures and ALA communications with its membership. He has always encouraged the staff and others to build on and develop their inherent skills.

Ron has therefore demonstrated leadership at both micro- and macro- levels within our organisation.

The last few months of his appointment have been characterised by the same dedication. This, and the next, issue of *Quest* highlight some of the initiatives he has been involved in:

- The importance of e-learning and technology
- The need for ongoing research and evaluation
- The need to diversify
- The importance of all parts of our country and
- The forming of relationships with other bodies, such as APIA.

The Board, membership and staff of Adult Learning Australia thank Ron for his service and wish him well as he leaves the currently cold capital of Australia and returns to the equally cold Blue Mountains, a place where we know he will continue his own intellectual growth and the education of those adults around him.

**Greg Peart**  
President