

Editorial



Welcome to the last hard copy edition of Quest.

I foreshadowed in the last edition that Adult Learning Australia would be transitioning to an online version during the course of 2009. A committee has been established to have a close look at design, content and other reader friendly matters. It is our hope that we can provide more than four copies a year of the new Quest.

At the May meeting of the Board it was decided that the position of Executive Director would be advertised and filled on a competitive basis. The position's advertisement is located towards the back of this edition. It is also posted on the ALA website.

Adult Learning Australia has also been advised by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations that our submission to coordinate Adult Learners' Week in 2009 has been successful. Our bid included a number of strategic partners from around the country. These partners will be announced publically soon on the ALA website.

The winning approach adopted by ALA and our partners for ALW in 2009 displays a different model from past ALW celebrations. This year our focus will be much more on providing capacity building activities for ACE/VET providers nationally with a focus on identifying strategies by providers to implement the 2008 Ministerial Declaration.

We look forward to hearing from those providers in each state who would like to host an ALW provider capacity building workshop in the first week of September.

Although the series of presentations ALA held for providers around the country about the Teaching and Learning Capital Fund for VET Investing in Community Education and Training Element has now finished, I am pleased to report that well over 300 organisations attended these sessions nationally.

On release of the final set of Guidelines by the Department, ALA was fortunate to use the services of Dr John Holm from DEGWA a company specialising in designing learning spaces. John spoke to the guidelines using Elluminate as a platform. His presentation is accessible on the ALA website.

We sincerely hope that by raising awareness about possible project options that we gave you something of a 'head start' in what has proved to be a very short timeframe for submitting applications. Of course we also wish you well with your submission.

I mentioned Elluminate earlier. As many of you are aware ALA has acquired its own Virtual Elluminate Room. This can be used at no cost by members although the offer does not extend to online members.

I cannot emphasise enough the opportunity this service provides for those members wishing to build their e-communication skills and knowledge. ALA also offers free training by members of our expert team.

Finally, I would like to welcome to the ALA Board on behalf of the members, Dorothy Lucardie, a former President of ALA and someone many members would know in that earlier capacity, and many members will also know Associate Professor Barry Golding for his extensive work on, amongst other things, Men's Sheds and his role in chairing the ACEFE A-Frame development committee—an excellent resource highlighted in this edition.

Ron Anderson

Acting Executive Director