

Media release

Adult Learning Australia congratulates Ministerial appointments in Education and Skills

Adult Learning Australia congratulates Dan Tehan on his re-appointment as Minister for Education, and Senator Michaelia Cash as Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business. ALA also congratulates Steve Irons on his new appointment as Assistant Minister for Vocational Education, Training and Apprenticeship, and especially the historic appointment of Ken Wyatt as the first Indigenous Minister for Indigenous Australians.

We also congratulate Tanya Plibersek on her re-appointment as Shadow Minister for Education and Training; Graham Perrett as Shadow Assistant Minister for Education and Training, Ged Kearney as Shadow Assistant Minister for Skills and Linda Burney as Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians.

Adult Learning Australia looks forward to working with the Morrison Government, and the Opposition, on programs that support 'second chance' learners including people who have left the school system early and adults with low level foundation skills, including digital literacy skills.

Adult learning programs delivered in community settings provide opportunities that enable young Australians to re-engage with education and adapt to the changing economic and social landscape. They also play a significant role in VET for high proportions of learners who are disadvantaged, disengaged, unemployed, have a disability or did not complete Year 12 or equivalent.

A recently released OECD report¹ on adult learning highlights the importance of an inclusive adult learning system in Australia that focusses on attracting adults with low skills into education and training.

We urge the Federal Government to ensure its education goals recognise community-based education's role in retraining and reskilling adult Australians, and in providing pathways to work and further learning. The renewal of the '2008 Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians' should be expanded to integrate the different parts of our education system.

'It is now more important than ever in the face of rapid technological change, an ageing population and higher demands for literacy in the workplace that all Australians have equitable access to adult and community education', Ms Macaffer says.

"Lifelong learning is the key to reducing barriers to education and training, and adult and community education is a key part of a strong lifelong learning ecosystem," says Jenny Macaffer, CEO, Adult Learning Australia.

¹ Getting Skills Right: Future-Ready Adult Learning Systems

About ALA

Adult Learning Australia is the national not for profit peak body for adult and community education with over 1,000 members representing all states and territories of Australia.

Media contact

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