



QUEST

SEPTEMBER 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Launch kicks off Adult Learners Week
- ◆ Inspiring ALW scholarship winners
- ◆ ALW celebrations around Australia
- ◆ Learning Changes Lives awards
- ◆ ACE update

Launch kicks off Adult Learners Week

A former drug addict who now mentors people on their release from prison, a retired rugby league star who learned to read at 37, a troubled kid who grew up to help other young people get their lives back on track. Guest speakers Simon Fenech, Ian Roberts and Lana Masterson shared their experiences at the launch of Adult Learners Week 2021 and demonstrated that adult education is a powerful force for change.

Adult Learners Week was officially launched to an audience of over 300 by The Hon. Stuart Robert – Minister for Employment, Workforce, Skills, Small and Family Business. Comedian and author Catherine Deveny interviewed guest panellists whose lives had been transformed by learning.

Simon Fenech described how his life was turned upside down after a workplace accident and constant pain led to drug addiction and eventually, jail. Once incarcerated Simon made a conscious decision to make the most of the situation. 'I wanted to use that as my turning point, to use it for rehabilitation and to pick up skills that would help me when I got out. So I did as many courses as I could.'

But life on his release was a struggle. He had a roof over his head but no job. 'No one wanted to employ me because of my criminal record.' A job offer from Fruit2Work, a not for profit social enterprise, was the break he needed. 'I was blessed by someone opening a door. I started as a pick packer and today I'm the Operations Manager of the business helping guys and girls coming out of the justice system get their lives back together. My life has turned around a million miles.'

Rugby champion Ian Roberts wanted to be an actor as a kid. 'I was part of the acting ensemble at school but the thing that used to terrify me about it was reading from the script.' Ian hid his difficulties with reading and writing at school. 'Fortunately or unfortunately I managed to get by because of my sporting ability. I never had to rely on my literacy capabilities which were basically zero when I left school.'

After a highly successful career in rugby Ian retired at 34. Soon afterwards he walked past the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) building and on impulse went in to enquire about acting classes. Teacher Kevin Jackson gave Ian a script and told him to go away and learn it and come back for an audition.

(Story continues on p. 3)

 ala.asn.au

 Like us on Facebook



ADULT
LEARNING
AUSTRALIA

Lifelong and
lifewide learning
for all Australians

Message from the CEO



Literacy is critical to a person's sense of self-worth and agency. Our future roadmap must incorporate adult learning and community education as part of a national lifelong learning strategy.

If you have low literacy and language skills, poor access to digital devices and the internet, have lost your job or are stressed trying to put food on the table, pay rent and manage remote schooling, then your sense of uncertainty at this time is great.

We are being challenged in ways we could never have imagined.

It is under these circumstances that this year's ALW theme 'Change Your Story' played out and why I believe it resonated with so many. Panellists Ian Roberts, Simon Fenech and Lana Masterson spoke powerfully at the ALW launch about the importance of being given the opportunity to make a fresh start. Sam Timney, Paco Lara and Lauren Stirling shared how adult education had opened doors and expanded their view of the future.

The diverse number of ALW events on offer this year was a credit to the extraordinary providers who had to adjust their programs at short notice to suit changing COVID-19 conditions. All our ALW scholarship nominees this year were outstanding. Congratulations to our ALW scholarship winners: James Hamilton Welch (ACT), Tracey Hosking (NSW) and Alyssa Hand (SA).

It was pleasing to have the Hon Stuart Robert, Minister for Employment, Workforce, Skills, Small and Family Business announce the ALW scholarship winners live at the launch.

It was difficult to choose just three ALW winners so our Learning Changes Lives Foundation stepped in to award an additional three scholarships to Maryam Soufiani, Saw Ei La Yar and Nora Smith-Garbutt.

On a policy front, the Parliamentary Inquiry into Adult Literacy and Its Importance received over 100 submissions and ALA participated in one of many hearings across the country. Our recent forum 'Adult literacy: What works?' brought together a panel to explore key submissions to the Inquiry. With over 400 registrations, it highlighted to us just how interested people are in practical strategies for improving adult literacy. This forum is the first in a series of related events we are planning for later this year.

Literacy is critical to a person's sense of self-worth and agency. Our future roadmap must incorporate adult learning and community education as part of a national lifelong learning strategy. While VET is important for employment, it is lifelong learning that can help future proof our society and prepare us for social and economic upheavals.

This is a time when we need to question everything. Not to respond leans into complacency and allows change to happen to us rather than with us. The pandemic has put us to the test – we know there are more challenging days ahead, but adult learning and community education can help guide us to the best way forward.

With the growing divide and anxiety in our society, our mission is for Australia to be a learning nation that leaves no one behind. We need new thinking that makes us more resilient and productive, inoculates us from injustice and helps us navigate changes in our way of life.

Adult learning and community education are key to achieving this.

Jenny Macaffer, CEO



Since Lana Masterson established Down the Track youth crime and incarceration have fallen significantly.

(story continued from p. 1)

'I can still remember that moment. I looked at the paper he gave me and said "Kevin I can't read and write." I can still remember that feeling of owning it. Kevin's reaction was so perfect. He was totally unfussed. He said "No problem, we'll tape it for you and you can learn it from memory and we can take it from there." It wasn't an issue for Kevin.

'The faith he gave me that day just changed my life.'

With help, Ian's reading and writing improved and he went on to complete an acting degree. 'Making that commitment and giving it the attention it deserved changed my life. I am much more complete as a person now than when I walked into NIDA.'

When Lana Masterson moved to the tiny town of Lake Cargelligo in Central West NSW from the mid north coast of NSW in 2015 she was struck by the high levels of youth crime and incarceration in the tiny town. 'It was through the roof. I noticed a revolving door of young people being locked up every week. And it didn't make sense or sit right with me. I thought, "Something's got to change."

When the opportunity arose to be involved in a pilot program to do something about it, Lana jumped at the chance.

'Growing up I was one of those kids who went off the rails but I had managed to get my life back on track. So I knew I had something to offer.'

Down the Track provides mentorship, practical education, training, employment and wellbeing support. Since it started, youth crime has fallen significantly.

'We've grown into this amazing youth organisation that offers opportunity and a whole new way of thinking about where you can be. Through our social enterprise we now have kids who are working. It has a

knock-on effect because the kids involved are showing their brothers, sisters, cousins and their extended family that there are other options. Seeing that, it's a beautiful thing.'

Learning ambassadors

Adult Learners Week ambassadors Sam Timney, Lauren Stirling, and Paco Lara all returned to learning as adults. Sam, who took up adult literacy classes with a Read Write Now tutor in WA in 2017 says that improving his reading and writing has taken his career in a completely new direction.

'I left school with virtually no literacy skills. I was working ten hours a day as a boilermaker because it was a job that didn't require any reading or writing. But I got to the point where I started asking myself if this was something I wanted to be doing in ten years' time. When I saw the ad on TV for help with reading and writing I made the conscious decision to do something about it.'



Ian Roberts retrained as an actor completing a degree at NIDA.



A career in sport allowed Ian Roberts to avoid his literacy problems. Photo: Wigan Warriors by Gerard Barrau CC BY-SA 3.0

With help from his tutor Sam's skills and confidence improved.

'I wouldn't call myself a fluent reader by any means but I started to develop some belief in myself. Four years ago if someone had told me I would be running a workshop with 30 people under my leadership there was no way I would have considered that in the realm of possibility. I've learnt to try not to feel ashamed. Being open and frank about my limitations and the help I need has been a big thing. I hope that if I can share my story that someone else out there will get the support they need.'

Lauren Stirling's life-changing moment took place in a woolshed when a farmer suggested she try shearing. Since leaving school at 16 Lauren had been on a merry go round of different jobs. From supermarket cashier to spray painter, drover, and animal trainer, working on film and TV including 'Red Dog' and 'Neighbours', Lauren was never able to settle or find a job she could commit to. It was a sheep shearing course that turned her around.

'I really found myself. I really have grown up. Everything clicked and I'm really happy.'

And there's always something to learn. 'I'm always looking to be better.'



Paco Lara emigrated to Australia from Spain with his wife and child in 2017. A professional musician at 15, Paco is a renowned flamenco guitarist who has toured internationally. Without English and no connections, it was a shock.

'I felt like an alien. I didn't speak English, everything was new and I didn't know anyone here. It was very hard. And flamenco music isn't as well known here as it is in Japan or LA or Europe and so I had to do a lot of promoting of my style of music.'

English classes have helped Paco to settle in, make new friends and launch a solo career. 'I made a lot of good friends in the class and I have amazing teachers. My English is getting better and better. Now I am trying to be myself in English. I want to be able to express my sense of humour and my personality in English as well as I do in Spanish.'

The launch included music from Indigenous musician Joe Geia and flamenco guitarist Paco Lara. A recording of the launch is online at ala.asn.au/adult-learners-week-launch-2021/

Simon Fenech has written a memoir about his experiences called Breaking Good.

Inspiring ALW scholarship winners

Three outstanding adult learners who changed their lives through adult education are this year's scholarship winners



After droughts, bushfires, plagues of mice and the threat of floods, Tracey Hosking who lives on a sheep and cattle farm in Bundarra NSW is used to dealing with the unexpected. But it took the pandemic to realise she was in a rut.

For 14 years Tracey worked at the town's local corner store, which was across the road from her kids' school bus stop and handy to her parents' place.

But Tracey realised that even though she was extremely grateful for the opportunity, a job has to be more than convenient to keep you going.

By the time the pandemic hit in 2020 and after two months off work Tracey realised the time had come for a change. Her first day back at work was a shock. 'It felt like groundhog day. I was so antsy to get out of there. I got home after my shift and rang my boss and said. "I need to do something different." And I resigned.'

Half an hour later, driving to collect the kids, she heard an ad on the radio for the Community College course in Aged Care. 'I thought "it's not where I see myself" but it's something.'

She applied and was accepted into the course at the Community College in the nearby town of Inverell.

Returning to study was a challenge. Tracey left high school half-way through year 12 and worked at a few different jobs until she started at the corner store.

Newly enrolled in the one day a week Aged Care course Tracey looked for work and applied for a

'I'm the person in class who all the other students roll their eyes at because I always have a million questions.' Tracey Hosking

position as a disability support worker at Brighter Access, a disability services provider with clients who have high needs.

The new job took her out of her comfort zone and each day was a challenge, but Tracey was determined to keep her studies up and finish the course. Her new employer supported her decision. It was the right move, Tracey says. A lot of what she's studied in Aged Care is applicable to her disability role, including palliative care.

She's since gone on to enrol in a disability course and a Certificate III in Community Services course at Inverell Community College.

'I'm super excited to be doing these courses and I can't wait to get to class. It's a feeling I haven't had before. I love my job and I feel really confident. I feel like everything's panning out perfectly.'

'I hit the ground running – I'd never worked with people with disabilities before and these are people with high needs and behaviour issues but I've got so much confidence now that I've learned some skills. I really do love it. And I'm excited about learning more and I'm already thinking about what I will do after a Certificate 4 because I don't want to finish. There's so many things you learn that help your understanding and the way you do your job.'

'I stumbled on what I wanted to do and I'm so lucky.'

The day of the scholarship announcement Tracey was watching the launch on Zoom. 'When my name was called out it was totally unexpected. I was super excited. I had such a feeling of accomplishment.'

'I feel super grateful. I read what my teacher had written on the nomination again and it made me look back on things and I thought "Good for you." It really



Tracey Hosking wants to make a difference to the quality of care for vulnerable people in her community.

is good to get out of your comfort zone. It is a great feeling. I don't want to stop learning I want to climb the ladder and explore what else I can do.'

'It's super early days but I'm thinking bigger picture and I've got lots of ideas and the future looks exciting.

'I really have surprised myself. I know people who've worked for years in disability and aren't as confident as I am. But if you're really interested in something and you can apply what you're learning then everything's in synch and it all comes together.

'The hugest lesson I've learned is to back yourself. Listen to your gut and once you've made a decision, don't half start it, go forward and trust your judgement.'

James Welch – Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) — ACT

James Welch was in a hospital bed when he got a call telling him he'd won an Adult Learners Week scholarship. 'It didn't feel real. I was pretty feverish and on medication at the time so it felt like a dream. I was surprised and shocked and thrilled.'

Back home from hospital James has had time to take in the news and is grateful to his teacher Fran Handoko at CIT for nominating him. 'She is so encouraging and inspires a really good work ethic.'

James is a student in the 13 week SPARK program for young Canberra jobseekers. He joined the program

'For other people COVID was the worst thing to happen but for me it was the best thing. It made me take a new direction and put me on the right path.' Tracey Hosking

in 2021 four years after he finished high school. 'I didn't have any plans when I left high school, it was an achievement to get through and I hadn't thought much beyond that.'

The SPARK program offers participants a chance to try a range of different occupations over 13 weeks including construction, plumbing, horticulture and early childhood education.

James discovered he has a practical streak and a love of working in teams. He also enjoyed the opportunity to see that he had made big steps forward.

'I was getting a lot of positive feedback that showed me how much better I was at being organised and allocating time effectively, which had been a problem for me in the past.

'I also felt a real sense of community with my classmates. We were a small group and by the end I really felt like I had made friends and we knew each other really well.'

As for the scholarship, James will use it to further his education by studying horticulture. 'In class we looked at projections for careers and income in agriculture and horticulture and it's going to be a real growth area,' James said. 'And I've always loved working with plants.

'I'm just blown away to be offered this scholarship. It will really help with the costs of doing my horticulture course. It will be great not having that debt hanging over me.'



James Welch's next step is to study horticulture.



Alyssa Hand is studying to become a qualified youth worker and wants to help disadvantaged young people to believe in themselves.

Alyssa Hand — Hackham West Community Centre — SA

Alyssa Hand, 32 was doing a practical work placement at Hackham West Community Centre in Adelaide as part of her Certificate 3 in Community Services when the centre co-ordinators nominated her for an Adult Learners Week scholarship.

Initially Alyssa's role was to observe and help out when needed on the Perks Coffee Cart project — an adult education initiative aimed at improving the employability of young people. But by the end of her second week Alyssa was mentoring the participants, training them in barista skills and preparing them for the project launch.

'Our students are doing a fantastic job and I am so proud of them. Some days I feel I need to pinch myself I'm so happy.'

It's been a rocky road to the place Alyssa is at today.

She left school at 16 to go to work but she struggled with severe depression and began taking drugs and for a while was in and out of work. By the age of 19 things were looking up. She had a job at Woolworths and things seemed to be going really well. 'But then I fell off the wagon and I fell very hard and ended up in addiction and domestic violence.'

'I am like a nocturnal animal coming into the daylight. I spent a lot of time around people putting me down who didn't value anything about me and now I'm surrounded by so many beautiful people who support and encourage me. I've got a plan now and I'm so excited about the future.' Alyssa Hand

Fast forward ten years and Alyssa hit a real low. 'I was an addict and one day I realised I was spending more time coming down and crying in bed than enjoying my life. Things just had to get better because they felt like they couldn't get any worse.

'I realised I really needed to up my game and do something different with my life. The turning point was when I realised that none of the people I was hanging round with had my interests at heart, they were only interested in drugs and money.'

'The only way I could see myself getting out of my addiction was to study and develop skills and coping mechanisms so that I could move on. That was really key in helping me.'

Deciding she wanted to help disadvantaged young people like herself Alyssa chose youth work. The work placement at Hackham has taught her a lot about herself.

'I've really developed. I've grown more confident and my communication skills are much better.

The experience has inspired Alyssa to think about the long term. 'I would love to run my own community centre with ACE courses for kids who've left school because ACE builds their skills and makes them more confident about the future.'

'I was so excited when I heard that I'd won the scholarship. It's such a compliment to be recognised for all the hard work I've been doing.'

'I'm ready for the next step which is a Certificate IV in Youth Work. So I'll put my scholarship money towards that.'

ALW celebrations around Australia

The theme of Adult Learners Week — Change Your Story — had particular resonance this year with a pandemic forcing many Australians into lockdown. But it didn't stop the celebrations.



Despite the limitations imposed by COVID-19 neighbourhood houses, community colleges, libraries, local councils, TAFEs and more got involved, running in person and online celebrations that encouraged Australians to take life in a new direction through adult education.

The three winners of the 'Best Event' awards went to Foundation Learning Centre (Vic), Macquarie Community College (NSW) and Burnie Library (Tas).

Anita Anderwald Community Learning Coordinator at Burnie Library

'When the ALW theme came out and it was 'Change Your Story' I thought "Wow, we could do something quite inspired with this."

'So we ran intensive workshops on different forms of storytelling — short story, digital storytelling and book art – and inspired by the pandemic we used the idea of embracing chaos as a theme.'

Anita says finding good facilitators was a combination of hard work and good luck. A chance conversation after a series of fruitless phone calls connected Anita

with local gallery owner Gina. 'She was rapt to be involved. I sent her a brief and when she got back to me and suggested doing a workshop on making artists books I thought it sounded amazing. And it was.'

'One day a writer called Zokov Nyste who had just moved here from Sydney happened to turn up at the library. We got talking and he mentioned he wrote for Neighbours and Home and Away.' Seizing the opportunity, Anita asked if he would be involved in Adult Learners Week. 'We were absolutely thrilled when he agreed to facilitate the story writing workshop.'

Having someone well known was a real plus when it came to promotion. The local paper ran a prominent story about the workshops. 'It was fantastic because we made the front page so we reached a lot more people that way. We even had one person who came all the way from Launceston to be part of it which was really great.'

The intensive workshops were popular and ran evenings and weekends. Anita says reactions from people who took part were overwhelmingly positive and locals are keen for more.

Winning 'best event' was a surprise, Anita says. 'I was





At Burnie Library participants created handmade books about their experiences of the pandemic.

in the middle of a workshop when I got the message that we'd won and I was so thrilled. It was so exciting. We are planning an exhibition in November to showcase the writing, art and also short film clips that we produced during Adult Learners Week so we will use the prize money to support that.'

Ka Wong, Marketing specialist, MCC Macquarie Community College (NSW)

'We had a really great offering this year. We thought about what people would want after 10 weeks in lockdown. So we really tailored what we offered according to what was happening in people's lives and what would interest them.'

The result was a menu of 28 different taster classes with over 300 people attending, more than half of whom had never studied with the College before.

'Our most popular class was 'Lockdown haircuts' which we ran three times. 'Self care during lockdown', 'Creating a veggie patch' and 'Stay at home beauty' were all top of the list. That's not surprising really because we know people are wanting to do something different and learn new things when they are stuck at home.

'People really loved it. We kept classes to 40 minutes because longer can be tiring and also we wanted people who were working from home to be able to participate. And even though they were just a taste of our longer classes, in their feedback people said they learned a lot and they said it really helped them understand whether or not a longer class would suit them.

'Also I think it really showed people that they could do things like learn guitar online and that it wasn't as hard as they thought it might be, especially given teachers took them through things step by step.

'We were excited to win a 'Best Events' prize. It was very satisfying and it was great because we have a new team member and it was very exciting for her to be involved in something that won an award.

'I was proud of how well our team worked together especially as we haven't seen each other in 10 weeks. It's so much easier to organise things when you're working face to face, and you can pop your head up and say "Hey let's do this" and bounce ideas off one another. Doing it all via video conference and email was a difficult challenge. But it worked out really well.

'What I learned was how effective it is when you really





Developing digital skills and confidence during Adult Learners Week.

tailor what you offer to the current needs of your audience. It's been so enjoyable to read the great feedback we got and it just goes to show that offering things online and learning online is not as daunting as it seems.'

Brianna Lorenz, Executive Assistant Communication, Design & Events at Foundation Learning Centre (FLC)

In Narre Warren says that Adult Learners Week is a highlight of the FLC calendar.

'We enjoy it so much because it's a chance to celebrate and acknowledge the importance of ongoing learning.'

As part of the online celebration Brianna recorded a series of video interviews with a range of FLC staff who talked about their own experiences of education and offered tips for people looking to return to study.

'It was fun and challenging and I learnt so much. It made me admire my colleagues more and more. They are a very diverse group and each of them is extraordinary in their own way. They have so much knowledge, experience, drive and dedication that they bring to what they do. I absolutely love working at FLC

and I'm incredibly proud to be part of an organisation that does so much for our community. Doing the interviews really brought that home for me.

'And we got excellent feedback. Staff and students often don't get a chance to talk to one another in depth about their backgrounds and interests. So it was a wonderful way for us all to connect, especially seeing we are all working and studying remotely.'

Staff and students attended the awards ceremony online. 'We put together a slide show announcing all the winners and the reason behind each award. Nobody except the three of us on our ALW committee knew who the winners were so there was lots of anticipation and excitement.'

'We felt incredibly lucky to win a 'Best Event' prize and I was very surprised and incredibly grateful. We were absolutely stoked to be acknowledged like that. Winning was a real highlight for me because we hadn't expected it and we put a lot of work into ALW and being acknowledged with a prize was really lovely, it was just the cherry on the top of a great Adult Learners Week.'



Learning Changes Lives awards

The Learning Changes Lives Foundation – the charitable arm of ALA - celebrated Adult Learners Week 2021 by awarding three scholarships to enable adults engaged in adult community education sector to continue their studies.



Nora Smith-Garbutt (NSW)

Nora is a student in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Certificate III at ACE community College Lismore. The course is run in collaboration with Bunjum Aboriginal Cooperative Ballina which runs a childcare centre where Nora was already employed. Nora enrolled in the ECEC course to gain qualifications and improve her employment prospects. Nora has developed her confidence and communication skills in class promoting discussion and reflection. She has impressed her teachers with her dedication and commitment and they call her a 'future star' to watch out for. LCL is supporting Nora to gain childcare qualifications and employment in the Northern Rivers Region.



Maryam Soufiani (Vic)

Maryam arrived from Iran in 2019 where she was a designer of computer software, websites and programming. It was work she loved and she hopes to continue her career in a similar field in Australia. But her English studies come first. In her English classes at Pines Learning, Maryam's confidence and independence have blossomed along with her language skills. For now, Maryam's priority is improving her English but a future in computer science is in her sights. The LCL scholarship will support Maryam to do a course that will assist her to be more job-ready and enable her to continue with further study at a higher level. She has a future career in computer science in her sights.



Saw Ei La Yar (Vic)

Saw began English classes at Wyndham Community and Education Centre in 2018 where he worked hard, intent on making a better life here in Australia for his young children and himself. Alongside his English classes he enrolled in a pre-accredited course in building and construction. Saw has been an inspiration to other students. By sharing his experiences of the building course he has opened his classmates' eyes to potential career paths and opportunities available beyond the English language classroom. Saw is now working as a bricklayer's labourer and plans to enrol in a pre-apprenticeship course. The LCL scholarship will support Saw to take the next steps in his career.

Donations to the Learning Changes Lives Foundation support adults to change their lives through adult education and learning programs. learningchangeslives.org.au

ACE Update

In **Tasmania**, the state government has established an expert Literacy Advisory Panel to review current literacy programs and supports as well as oversee the development of a community-wide framework to achieve a Literate Tasmania. dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/policy/literacy_advisory_panel

The Tasmanian Council for Adult Literacy (TCAL) is hosting its annual conference with the theme of 'Progressive practices adapting to change' for adult literacy practitioners on October 30. tcal.org.au

In **Victoria**, Wyndham City Council and Melton City Council are hosting The Global Learning Festival from 8–11 November 2021. This festival invites the community to participate in free, online learning events from around the world and experience the benefits of lifelong learning. globallearningfestival.com

In **SA**, Community Centres SA has been funded by the state Department of Innovation and Skills to develop a new approach to Community Learning. The Community Learning collective is a collaboration between 10 community education providers and aims to enable improved access to adult education in community-based settings in digital literacy, work skills and general literacy.



Photo: Inverloch Beach by frostnova by CC BY-NC 2.0

Nationally, ALA held 'A national conversation on adult literacy approaches — what works?' during Adult Learners Week to celebrate UNESCO International Literacy Day and following on from its joint submission to The House Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training inquiry into adult literacy. The event attracted strong interest with a line up of international and local speakers from a range of states and territories. A recording of the event is now available. ala.asn.au/online-event-a-national-conversation-on-adult-literacy-approaches-what-works/

SBS TV premiered a new documentary series, 'Lost for Words' on September 22. The series follows eight Australians on an intensive nine-week long adult literacy program. Hosted and narrated by literacy advocate Jay Laga'aia, the documentary follows the adult participants' struggles and achievements and confronts Australia's low adult literacy rate. Also available on SBS On Demand. sbs.com.au/ondemand/program/lost-for-words

Internationally, a new report from the OECD, Education at a Glance (2021) says governments should boost their investment in education in order to tackle the sources of inequality of opportunity. This would help create a more level playing field for people of all ages to acquire the skills that power better jobs and better lives. oecd.org/newsroom/boost-education-investment-to-tackle-inequality-of-opportunity-says-oecd.htm

You can find previous issues of Quest and individual stories for sharing at ala.asn.au/stories

QUEST

Quest is the national magazine for adult and community education. It is published four times a year by Adult Learning Australia.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Jenny Macaffer

EDITOR

Gina Perry g.perry@ala.asn.au

2021 ALA BOARD

PRESIDENT

Assoc Prof Annette Foley (VIC)

VICE PRESIDENT

Kathleen Priestly (TAS)

SECRETARY

Judith McKay (NT)

TREASURER

Dr Ron Wilson (VIC)

BOARD

Rebecca Arbon

Ros Bauer

Prof Stephen Billett

Dianne Borella

Sally Brennan

Chris McCall

Dr Nigel Wilson

CONTACT



Adult Learning Australia
Henderson House
45 Moreland St.
Footscray VIC 3011



03 9689 8623



ala.asn.au



ADULT
LEARNING
AUSTRALIA

Lifelong and lifewide
learning for all
Australians