

A national conversation on adult literacy approaches – what works?

OUR LINE UP



Judith McKay – Judith McKay (MC) – Executive Board Member – Adult Learning Australia

Judith is based in Darwin and is engaged as a contractor to develop the capacity of local

disability and aged care service providers to operate effectively and expand their work forces. In 2019 Judith was awarded at the Australian Training Awards as recipient of the National Achievement Award in recognition of her outstanding leadership and contribution to the Australian VET Sector for up to 25 years. Throughout her extensive career in VET, Judith has actively sought to promote and deliver awareness of key underpinning LLN skills in education and learning programs by working closely with employers and VET trainers in the design and delivery of targeted programs.



Jo Medlin – President Australian Council of Adult Literacy

Jo Medlin is an adult literacy and numeracy (LN) advocate. Currently her advocacy work centres on her role as President of the

Australian Council for Adult Literacy (ACAL). This includes being the ACAL representative on the DESE Foundation Skills Advisory Committee, The Reading Writing Hotline, The Education IRC, and a judge for the Australian Training Awards (LLN category). Jo works as a consultant, specialising in resource development, PD and teaching. This year she also worked with SBS on the documentary *Lost for Words* where she co-taught adult LN learners and devised an intensive nine-week student-centred learning program.



Ros Bauer – Board Member – Adult Learning Australia

Ros Bauer has extensive experience in adult education as a language literacy numeracy practitioner. She was the winner

of the 2013 Australian Training Awards Excellence in Adult Language Literacy and Numeracy Practice and a recipient of an Executive Fellowship through the Australian Endeavour Awards that included a professional learning experience in Scandinavia. Ros has worked as part of the NT LLN Network Group and an educational consultant to the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation. She is currently Head of Department - Career Pathways, Aboriginal Languages & Employability Skills at TAFE NSW.



Analiese Robertson - Director Adult and Community Education (ACE) Aotearoa (NZ)

Analiese Robertson is the Director for Adult and Community Education (ACE)

Aotearoa, the lead body for ACE in Aotearoa New Zealand. Analiese has an extensive background in adult literacy, tertiary education and community development. She has contributed to the development of ACE research, policy and strategies in tertiary education, providing a voice for the sector both nationally and internationally, and has held a number of community, tertiary and government agency advisory roles. She is also actively involved with a number of community organisations with a focus on capability building, infrastructure support, transformation, change leadership and succession planning. Her attested community role includes working nationwide with Māori and Pacific communities, using lifelong learning as a vehicle for transformative change. Analiese initiated a research project that aimed to reconceptualise the definition of literacy through a cultural lens, aimed at validating indigenous languages and culture.



Dr Cath Ferguson – Senior Research Fellow Edith Cowan University – Read Write Now

Dr Cath Ferguson is a Senior Research Fellow in the School of Education at Edith Cowan University in Perth, Western Australia. She has an eclectic

academic background and has been involved in adult education for over 20 years in a range of quite different contexts. She has taught in vocational education, the prison environment, as a one-on-one facilitator for business owners, and as a volunteer tutor with Read Write Now in Western Australia. She currently teaches post-graduate research units at Edith Cowan University and supervises research students at masters and PhD level in the School of Education. She also volunteers as a tutor with Read Write Now, working with a student whose aim is to eventually achieve vocational education qualifications. Her paper about the readability of Covid-19 online documents was recently published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health. She has also undertaken research about the usefulness of tutoring for adult learners.



Michelle Circelli – Team Leader, Research-National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)

Michelle Circelli undertakes or manages research on a variety of topics

including factors that impact on VET completion, VET delivered to secondary students, and work-based learning. Having been with NCVER for almost 18 years, Michelle's developed an interest in all aspects of vocational education and training, but has a particular interest in adult language, literacy, numeracy and digital (LLND) skills. This interest was supported through being awarded the 2013 Fulbright Professional Scholar in Vocational Education and Training, researching how success of foundation skills programs is measured in the US. One of Michelle's current projects is looking at the impact of LLND and employability skills training on further VET and employment outcomes.



Barbara Napanangka Martin - Deputy Chair, Warlpiri Education and Training Trust

Barbara Martin is a retired teacher from Yuendumu community. She began her career

in the early 1980's as a Warlpiri translator and literacy worker, and then went on to work in the classroom as an Assistant Teacher at Yuendumu School before graduating from her Diploma of Education through Batchelor College in 1997. She went on to attain her Bachelor of Education (Primary) through Batchelor College in 2011 and is a founding member and Deputy Chair of the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT). Barbara continues to work in Warlpiri translation and literacy production.



Louise Stanley- Senior CDO -Central Land Council

Louise Stanley is a Senior Community Development officer at the Central Land Council. Louise has worked with the CLC since 2016 supporting the governance of the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT)

and overseeing the Trust's investments in remote education programs. Louise has recently graduated from a Master of International Development from La Trobe University.



Anita Planchon – Director Strategy and Engagement – Libraries Tasmania

Anita Planchon is Director of Strategy and Engagement at Libraries Tasmania, with oversight of 26TEN, Tasmania's strategy for adult literacy and numeracy among her varied responsibilities.

She was formerly Manager of Literacy Services, responsible for Libraries Tasmania's statewide Adult Literacy Service, and had a prior career as an Australian diplomat. Anita has a Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics from the University of New England, with a research focus on multilingualism and second and third language acquisition.



**Catherine Scarth – CEO
– Adult Multicultural
Education Services
Australia**

Catherine Scarth's career has focussed on the design and implementation of

innovative social programs and enterprises in Australia and the United Kingdom. She has achieved this through the creation of partnerships with government, employers and the community sector to deliver programs designed to increase the economic and social participation for newly arrived migrants and refugees. Ms Scarth is the Chief Executive Officer of AMES Australia, an organisation providing a wide range of interconnected settlement, education, vocational training and employment services in Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales and Tasmania. Ms Scarth is a Board Member of Thrive Refugee Enterprises.



**Kathleen Priestly – Vice
President – Adult
Learning Australia**

Kathleen is the manager of 8 libraries in the NW & West of Tasmania. She has worked with government at all levels to

develop policy for learning and to secure funding for opportunities. Her areas of interest are collaborative impact work, building learning communities, technology and helping individuals to see learning as a vehicle to improve their life circumstances. Kathleen has qualifications in General Education, Adult & Vocational Education, Adult Literacy & Library Services. She regularly advocates for learning & presents at conferences. She loves learning herself, being challenged & working collaboratively.



**Ron Wilson - President
of the Australasian
Corrections Education
Association**

Ron has broad experience in Education and Vocational Training for over 40 years having worked as a teacher,

School Principal, TAFE general manager. He held Board leadership roles including past deputy chair of the Adult Community and Further Education Board, member of Adult Learning Australia Board, and president of the Australasian Corrections Education Association. In 1996, Ron was recognised in the Australia Day Honours with the Public Service medal for outstanding public service for introducing Vocational Education and Training to Victoria's prison system. Since 2007, Ron has continued his commitment to the VET sector through his consultancy practice and recently released a book "Joseph Akeroyd: rediscovering a prison reformer" examining education inspired reforms in Victoria's prison system. Ron completed a PhD in Management (RMIT), following his M Ed (Educational Leadership and Management) and M Ed (Educational Research). Ron has undergraduate degrees in Arts (Social Sciences), Education (Physical Education), a Post Graduate Diploma in Special Education, and a Diploma in Teaching (Primary).



**Jason Coutts – Department
of Education, Skills and
Employment**

Jason Coutts is the Assistant Secretary of the Foundation Skills Branch of the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment. In this role, he leads the team

with responsibility for adult foundation skills policy advice and program delivery, including the Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) program, the new Foundation Skills for your Future initiatives (Program and Remote Community Pilots), as well VET delivered to Secondary Students.

**8 SEPTEMBER 2021
1:00 - 2:30 PM**

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/adultliteracyapproaches>