
Relationship between Adult Learning Australia (ALA) and TCAL

Background:

- The Australian Association of Adult Education (AAAE) was founded at a meeting in Hobart, Tasmania, in 1960. In 1989, AAAE amalgamated with the Australian Association of Community Education to form the Australian Association of Adult and Community Education (AAACE). The name Adult Learning Australia (ALA) was adopted in 1998 to reflect a changing adult education environment.
- The Australian Council for Adult Literacy was formed in October, 1976, after a working group on adult literacy was established at the Adelaide conference for the Australian Association of Adult Education (AAAE). This working group decided that a national council separate from the AAAE was needed, solely dedicated to raising the profile of adult literacy education. Those involved in setting up the separate council felt that rather than being subsumed by the umbrella organisation of adult education, the needs of the burgeoning adult literacy movement in Australia would be better served by having its own national body, to lobby the Federal Government and to develop policy specifically related to adult literacy needs.
- Increasingly ALA seem to be focussing on engaging Adult Literacy Practitioners. Their current home page highlights the LLN Practitioners awards and the PIAAC survey and they recently hosted a webinar conducted by Philippa McLean on developing effective LLN tasks.

Current Situation:

- TCAL, as the Tasmanian Branch of ACAL, has grown significantly in recent years and now represents Literacy Practitioners all over Tasmania.
- There is no equivalent organisation representing adult learning Practitioners and ALA does not have state based sub branch structure equivalent to ACALs.
- ALA has both individual member and organisational member categories.

Membership Categories and Fees

Individual Membership (Full price: \$95, Concession: \$75)

Concession price is available for those who are in receipt of a Commonwealth Health Care Card or a Student Concession Card.

Organisational Membership (Full price: \$195, Concession: \$139)

Member benefits apply to all organisational members.

Concession price is available to not-for-profit organisations with an annual income of less than \$200,000.

Annual membership benefits include:

- Subscription to ALA's national quarterly magazine, [Quest](#)
- Subscription to the [Australian Journal of Adult Learning](#)
- Email notification of news, events, [professional development webinars](#) and [submissions](#)
- Invitations and discounts to special events including the [ALA national conference](#)
- Free advertising of jobs, events, training resources and courses on the ALA website and publications
- Free use of the Blackboard Collaborate training room

Issues:

- The relationship between ALA and ACAL and TCAL and other state based ACAL bodies is blurred.
- There are potential benefits for TCAL and its members in becoming an organisational member of ALA, however whether TCAL would want to become relevant for Adult learning practitioners working in areas other than literacy is a matter for the management committee to consider.

Recommendations:

- **That the TCAL Management Committee consider taking out an annual organisational membership of ALA.**
- **That the TCAL management Committee consider the possibility of expanding its constitution to include representation for Adult Learning practitioners generally.**