



Member e-Newsletter

June 2020

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www.facebook.com/tasmanianCAL

Contents

News	Page 1
TCAL Round up	Page 2
Professional development	Page 4
Letter to the PM	Page 6

NEWS

TCAL mid-year online get-together

We think it's time we organised a couple of networking sessions for members and potential members. So conjure up some snacks and a drink and connect up to a TCAL Zoom get together. There's an evening one and a weekend afternoon one. Each one will go for about one hour. We thought we could chat about the workforce development project, the conference planning for 2021, what's been happening for you as practitioners in response to Covid-19, and learn more about the Tutor Adult Literacy Learners (TALL) program, which is free for all Tasmanians during 2020. [Click here to register](#)

Workforce Development Plan - back on track!

Despite some challenges, TCAL remains on track to deliver a workforce development plan before the end of the year. This will give TCAL the foundations on which to apply for future funding to further develop our expertise as a sector providing ALN services for Tasmania. Between now and then, there will be more opportunities for you to have your say about what should be in our Plan.

ACAL news

ACAL has worked with Adult Learning Australia (ALA) to contact the Prime Minister in early June. The letter, focussing on improved Adult Literacy – Critical for the Regeneration of Australia, draws attention to Australians with low literacy, numeracy and digital skills who are vulnerable to social isolation and unemployment as jobs disappear in the face of technological change, globalisation and COVID-19.

We look forward to a response and will update you as information is received. A copy of the letter is shared on the last pages of this newsletter.

Information about the VET FEE-HELP Student Redress Measures

The Commonwealth Ombudsman is seeking your help in letting your network know about the VET FEE-HELP Student Redress Measures (the redress measures).

The redress measures came into effect at the beginning of 2019 and provide a remedy for students who incurred a debt under the VET FEE-HELP scheme due to the inappropriate conduct of their education provider, by removing all or part of a VET FEE-HELP debt.

Applications under the redress measures need to be made to the VET Student Loan Ombudsman by 31 December 2020. As an organisation with links into your community, we would value your help in getting to those students who may be eligible to have their VET FEE-HELP debt removed.

Under the redress measures, 'inappropriate conduct' includes:

- being offered an incentive (such as a laptop) to enrol even though the person had no intention of completing the course
- failing to provide accurate information about the course before the person enrolled, leading to the person enrolling in a course that wasn't suitable and was different to what they believed
- not withdrawing a student's enrolment when asked to do so by the student, leading them to incur a VET FEE-HELP debt.

Please note that this is about VET FEE-HELP debts only, and that it does not apply to VET Student Loans debts.

Complaints can be made through the Commonwealth Ombudsman [website](#), just select 'VFH outreach referral 2020' in the 'how found' field. If people have any questions then they can contact the Ombudsman by email at VET@ombudsman.gov.au, or call us on 1300 362 072.

Attached to this email is a factsheet about the VET FEE-HELP Student Redress Measures.

This will help as many people as possible who may be affected by this issue.

TAE practitioner qualification

Over the past few years we have seen a decline in the number of registered training organisations offering the Graduate Diploma in Adult Language, Literacy and Numeracy Practice (TAE80113). This is the only vocational accredited professional qualification for adult literacy practitioners in Australia. Recently TAFE NSW decided to stop taking new enrolments for the qualification. This leaves only five providers remaining.

With a review of the TAE Training Package likely to begin later this year, it is important that TCAL consider what this might mean for Tasmanian practitioners seeking formal qualifications. This line of inquiry will be discussed as part of the workforce development planning process, as we identify pathways into and through our profession.

TCAL Round Up

TCAL Membership 2020

During June, we'll be emailing invoices to all existing TCAL members. This means you can claim your membership fees on your tax return for this financial year.

To reflect the change in membership period to the calendar year, your invoice will have a credit for the remainder of 2020 and a charge for the first half of 2021.

The new fees are: \$45.00 for full members and \$20.00 for concession.

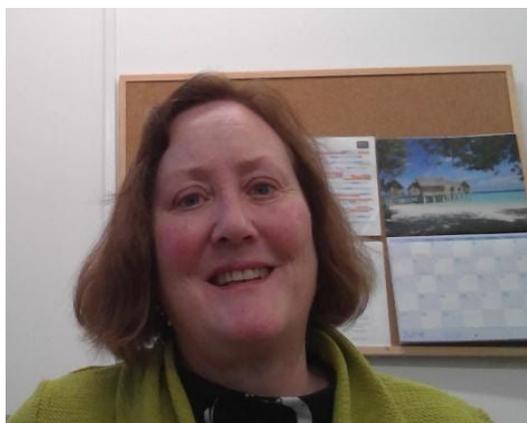
Payment details will be included on the invoice.

If you have any queries, please contact Natasha at tcalmanagecomm@gmail.com

Please complete this one minute survey for TCAL

We are celebrating one year of the TCAL monthly e-News and are inviting your contribution. We'd love your feedback, so please, please, please can you [fill in this 1 minute survey](#) (link to Survey Monkey).

Meet the 2020 TCAL Management Committee



Julia Goss, Management Committee member

Julia has been a committee member for three years. She is the convenor of the 2021 ACAL National Conference. Currently the Conference committee is looking at platforms to host an online conference and seeking recommendations for possible conference speakers. So, if you have an idea or would like to present a paper, let her know.

Julia is currently a literacy coordinator with Library Tasmania based at the New Norfolk library. She relishes every opportunity to engage with other service providers, to help improve the literacy outcomes for the people of the Derwent Valley.

2020 TCAL management committee

TCAL is still looking for people who can commit some time to the Management Committee. If you are interested or someone you know might be, please contact Natasha at tcalmanagecomm@gmail.com.

Your ideas are needed for TCAL/ACAL 2021 conference in Tasmania

In 2021 the conference will be convened in Tasmania. We're still in the design phase and will keep you posted as we start nailing down dates and places ... be they wood, stone or online. Let us know if you have a speaker or workshop you think would be wonderful. You can email tcalmanagecomm@gmail.com with ideas, or better still, come along to our online event and brainstorm with us.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Tutor Adult Literacy Learners (LLN tutor skill set)

Get the confidence you need to become an Adult Literacy Tutor, and learn the skills you need to support literacy and numeracy development in adults.

This online skill set is designed to give you the skills you need to become an Adult Literacy Tutor – and is free for Tasmanian residents! For all other students, to complete the 10 week course will cost \$479. If you would then like to undertake assessment and achieve the skill set qualification, an additional cost of \$1695 applies. More information further on.

In this course, you will learn contemporary theory on how adults learn, as well as the barriers that make it difficult for some people to learn. You'll learn how to identify individual learner needs, and how to plan and monitor learning activities to suit those needs, as well as how to support learners to achieve their literacy and numeracy goals.

There's another round of this popular and free training opening soon. Find out more on the TasTAFE website <https://www.tastafe.tas.edu.au/courses/course/chcss00101>

Australasian Vocational Education and Training Research Association



Early Career and Emerging VET Researcher Webinar Series

As Australia's peak national VET research association, AVETRA plays an important role in connecting early career and emerging VET researchers with peers and mentors. In 2020, we are excited to announce a new webinar series, aimed at connecting our membership from across Australia and providing an opportunity for engaging with key VET issues and researcher capability development. See the website for more details:

https://avetra.org.au/pages/upcoming-events.html?mc_cid=8934e23ecf&mc_eid=94fe24dece

World Literacy Summit



The World Literacy Summit 2020 will be held as an online experience. Registrations open on the 1st July. This is the fourth Summit hosted biannually by the World Literacy Foundation, a leading international charity in the literacy sector with a commitment to building a literate world.

The World Literacy Summit brings together the world's largest gathering of international literacy specialists, from 85 countries representing over two-thirds of the world's population, and all with a

single focus – advocating, championing and educating on the vital importance of improving literacy levels across the globe. A great opportunity to participate is this international event without having to leave Tasmania. For more information about #WLS20 - Online Experience visit www.worldliteracysummit.org

"No Frills" is happening



NCVER has made the decision to take the 29th National VET Research Conference 'No Frills' online for the first time ever.

The conference will feature a comprehensive range of live and pre-recorded content, including keynote speakers, workshops and presentations, which will immerse you in the future of VET.

#NoFrills2020 is happening from 7-10 July 2020, so save that date!

For more information, go to

<https://www.ncver.edu.au/news-and-events/events/29th-national-vet-research-conference-no-frills>

Life in a Time of Pandemic

Some selections from Community Colleges Australia on how the world is dealing with life under a pandemic.

Zoom: Spending a lot of your life on Zoom? We are too. Zoom is now influencing more than business communication, and impacts popular culture, home life and even dating. Read [Naomi Fry](#) in The New Yorker.

Vocabulary: The pandemic has created a whole new vocabulary to help us navigate this historical moment. Robert Lawson [analyses the explosion](#) of new words and phrases.

Books: One of [the most popular books right now](#) is a 1947 novel by French existentialist writer Albert Camus: *The Plague*.

New Research to examine the potential impact of remote learning

The Australian Government commissioned five pieces of research to examine the potential impact of remote learning from home on educational outcomes for vulnerable cohorts of children, including barriers to access and evidence-based actions to respond. You will find links to the reports at the following link.

[New Research to examine the potential impact of remote learning](#)

Joint letter from ACAL and ALA to the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison.

Dear Prime Minister,

Improved Adult Literacy – Critical for the Regeneration of Australia

Australians with low literacy, numeracy and digital skills are vulnerable to social isolation and unemployment as jobs disappear in the face of technological change, globalisation and COVID-19.

We welcome the steps taken by the Australian Government in response to the COVID-19 crisis and the provision of a range of programs to help our communities through these changing and uncertain times. Effective planning and implementation of the COVID-19 recovery process is crucial for our nation's future. However, the recovery roadmap must recognise the economic value of higher levels of adult literacy, numeracy and digital skills; particularly for socially and economically marginalised Australians.

All Australians, regardless of their employment status, must be supported to develop their literacy, numeracy and digital skills in order to achieve productivity gains and ensure they can live healthy, autonomous and full lives. Adults need sufficient literacy to comprehend health information, understand government information and services, get job ready and maintain a connection during this time of social distancing. However, the OECD's Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) survey, which measures key cognitive and workplace skills, found that around 44% of Australian adults lack the literacy skills required in everyday life. PIAAC's data suggests that of these, 1 in 7 Australians (14%) have very poor literacy skills and 1 in 3 (30%) have below-proficiency level literacy making them vulnerable to unemployment. Many more struggle with numeracy, with around 53% of the population at below proficiency levels. And while there has been much commentary on the scale of the problem, the COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the urgency of finding comprehensive solutions.

The Australian Government's Foundation Skills for Your Future Program is a step in the right direction and initiatives of this nature should form part of an integrated National Adult Literacy Strategy. The Program could be further enhanced by an increased focus and investment in a qualified and highly skilled practitioner workforce as Australia currently does not have enough skilled practitioners to meet the growing needs in this area.

Adult Learning Australia (ALA) and the Australian Council for Adult Literacy (ACAL) are calling on the federal government to commit to a National Adult Literacy Strategy that establishes a framework for increasing the level of adult literacy by 20% at PIAAC 2031/32.

Literacy is an investment in the future. Addressing literacy inequality will ensure a fairer and more productive Australia post COVID-19. ALA and ACAL are calling for the Australian government to develop and resource an evidence-based National Adult Literacy Strategy as part of its COVID-19 Roadmap to Recovery that:

1. Includes a comprehensive audit of the current provision of adult literacy education programs around Australia (both accredited and non-accredited education programs) that
 - identifies and evaluates effective interventions in adult literacy education including community based programs
 - explores family literacy for Indigenous and other socially and economically marginalised Australian communities
2. Addresses the national skills shortage of qualified adult literacy educators and builds the capacity of the workforce, including professionals and volunteers.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters with you or your delegates to ensure that together we can regenerate the socio-economic health and well-being of Australians and Australia, post COVID19.

Should you have any queries regarding this letter, please contact CEO, Jenny Macaffer at Adult Learning Australia: mobile 0488 030 073 or email: j.macafer@ala.asn.au.

Yours faithfully,

ALA President Annette Foley

ACAL President Jo Medlin

cc

The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP

Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash

The Hon Dan Tehan MP

The Hon Paul Fletcher MP

The Hon Stuart Robert MP

The Hon Andrew Gee MP

The Hon Greg Hunt MP

Senator the Hon Anne Ruston

The Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP

The Hon Steve Irons MP

The Hon Karen Andrews MP

National COVID-19 Coordination Commission

Adult Learning Australia (ALA)

ALA is the national peak body for adult and community education (ACE) providers. ALA's mission is for equitable access to lifelong and lifewide learning for all Australians. Our members include community learning centres, community colleges, neighbourhood houses, community resource centres, libraries and Aboriginal learning cooperatives. These community-based organisations offer a diverse range of personal enrichment learning programs, adult basic education in language, literacy, numeracy, digital and other foundation skills, and pre-accredited and accredited training. Our members are located in all states and territories of Australia – reflecting the diversity of sector. Our organisation maintains international relationships with the adult education sector through its membership of, and participation, in the International Council of Adult Education (ICAE) and the Asia South Pacific Association for Basic Adult Education (ASPBAE). In 2020, ALA celebrates its 60th anniversary.

Australian Council of Adult Literacy (ACAL)

ACAL is the national peak body for adult literacy and numeracy practitioners, researchers, and organisations. Since 1976 ACAL has advocated on behalf of equitable adult literacy and numeracy provision for all Australians. ACAL aims to build understanding of adult literacy and numeracy issues and promote adult literacy and numeracy policy and practice.