



9 December 2008

Dear Member,

Firstly, on behalf of the Board I would like to warmly thank and congratulate all workshop presenters and participants from across the nation whose contributions assured the success of this year's national conference in Fremantle. We especially acknowledge with immense gratitude those involved in the organisation, including sponsorship, of this event—Janice Mason and her WA team, and our own Janie McOmish.

The Fremantle National conference will be featured in the Summer Edition of QUEST.

I am writing to advise you of recent structural changes within the national office that have been brought about due to a one-third reduction in our direct funding from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

Peter Peterson is no longer with ALA as CEO position, and Julia Gane, the former national coordinator for Adult Learners Week, has also left the organisation. Both Peter and Julia had previously indicated their intention to resign in the near future. However, following the AGM in Fremantle, the Board made the decision to accept their resignation offers, effective immediately, so that the restructuring of the national office in line with new funding arrangements could commence without delay. The Board thanks Peter and Julia for their ongoing commitment to ALA, and extends best wishes for the future.

Janie McOmish is currently on leave. When Janie returns she will continue in her current position.

Interim staffing arrangements are now in place to keep the organisation 'ticking over' during December and January—traditionally a quiet time for the national office. During this period the Board will be engaged in a process of identifying what the future core business of Adult Learning Australia should be; how that core business can be most effectively and efficiently executed given the reduction in funding for 2009; and how we can best position the organisation to achieve our goals.

Adult Learning Australia will remain as the peak body, continuing to deliver policy advice to government, conduct research, support Adult Learners Week; and, in addition, further develop the capacity of adult and community education and training providers.

The Board welcomes ideas and thoughts from members who may wish to address such questions as:

- *Should Adult Learning Australia continue to exist in its current format, or should Adult Learning Australia be a peak body representing a range of other peak organisations involved in adult and community education and training?*
- *Does national office staffing need to be located in Canberra?*
- *What thoughts do you have on staffing of the national office?*
- *Does national office staffing have to be located in Canberra?*
- *What do you think is, or should be, the primary role of Adult Learning Australia?*
- *What should be Adult Learning Australia's priorities over the next few years?*
- *What should Adult Learning Australia do more of?*
- *What should Adult Learning Australia do less of?*

Please forward your thoughts, comments, and suggestions on the above, or any other matter, to me at greg.peart@skills.tas.gov.au within the next few weeks. Your input will be important as your Board considers the immediate and long-term future of Adult Learning Australia, and I will respond personally to you.

Ongoing membership support is highly valued at this critical time, keeping mind that Adult Learning Australia is very well placed to contribute to national social policy agendas.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Peart', with a large, stylized initial 'G'.

Greg Peart
President
Adult Learning Australia.