

Job Network

With the 2003 Job Network contracts just announced we thought members would be interested to know more about the network and the new system of training credits. Please refer to the documents at www.ala.asn.au/docs/job_network.pdf and www.ala.asn.au/docs/training_credits.pdf, provided by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

Adult Learning Australia is conducting a feasibility study into how it might be possible to improve the way in which training is offered to the unemployed, in particular to older men. The study will look at tools such as questionnaires which might be used by Job Network providers; raising awareness of ACE and other more informal learning approaches which might break down some of the barriers to learning; and encouraging greater community partnerships. To find out more contact John Cross at j.cross@ala.asn.au.

Adult Learners' Week

The contract for the promotional campaign for ALW 2003 has been awarded to Sydney-based company, Quay Connections. Under the guidance of Managing Director Mary Dickie, the agency has developed a wealth of experience in research and social marketing. Their response to the tender documentation was outstanding and they have proposed some great ideas that we are excited about putting into action for this year's week.

The theme for ALW this year is literacy, which ties in with the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003-2012). This provides a range of interesting opportunities to link adult learning with the many and varied types of literacy, including basic and critical literacy, media literacy, IT literacy and financial literacy.

ANTA has just launched a new publication entitled 'Frequently Asked Questions about Language, Literacy and Numeracy', which is available online at www.anta.gov.au/publication.asp?qsID=435. You might also like to visit the International Adult Literacy Survey site for very interesting reading about literacy in the 21st century: www.nald.ca/nls/ials/introduc.htm

Jane Speechley is the ALA contact for the promotion. If you have any ideas or questions, please don't hesitate to contact her on 02 6251 9887 or j.speechley@ala.asn.au.

Learning Circle Facilitation Training Workshop

If you live in the vicinity of Albury-Wodonga, there's an opportunity to participate in a learning circle facilitation workshop, made possible by a grant from the NSW branch of ALA. The workshop will be conducted on 15 April at the Continuing Education Centre campus, 63 High Street Wodonga. Mary Hannan will conduct the training session. For more information contact Mary on 02 6251 9889 or m.hannan@ala.asn.au.

Recognition of Prior Learning

The Australian Qualifications Framework Advisory Board is conducting a project to:

- research existing policies and practices relating to Recognition of Prior Learning in post-compulsory education in Australia; and
- develop proposed common national RPL principles and operational guidelines.

ALA has another opportunity to provide suggestions about the proposed principles and guidelines. A background paper can be found at www.scu.edu.au/research/rpl/research_report.pdf. If you are interested in contributing to ALA's submission, please send comments to f.beddie@ala.asn.au by 24 April.

Flexible Learning

Those of you on our discussion groups will already have received a message from Rita Bennink about a funding opportunity with the Australian Flexible Learning Framework. New Practices in Flexible Learning will fund up to 12 projects to a maximum of \$60,000 (plus GST) to produce initiatives, programs and services that are of broad applications to practitioners and/or providers within the VET sector. The application form is available at:

flexiblelearning.net.au/projects/newpractices.htm.

Applications close on 16 April 2003.

News from ANTA

The Training Package Pathways Chart is a handy tool developed by ANTA, to help both learners and trainers to catch up on the qualifications pathways in 68 major industries. This easy-to-use colour chart is available online at www.anta.gov.au/pathwayscharts.asp.

The Indigenous students project recently profiled in 'ANTA Fast Facts' now has a website. For more information on career guidance and advice, go to www.curriculum.edu.au/indigenoucareers/, and you can register to receive updates and provide feedback.

The McGarvie Forum

ALA, in partnership with the Australian Public Policy Research Network (APPRN), will host an online discussion led by Richard McGarvie (former Governor of Victoria and advocate for a republican model – the 'McGarvie' model). Mr McGarvie will discuss the role of Governors-General and State Governors in the current Australian political system and in any future republic. His discussion paper will be posted on the ALA website in early May. Those interested can read the paper and then participate in an online discussion forum during May. Mr McGarvie and other prominent thinkers in the field will be involved in the forum. If you are interested in participating please contact Jacqui Levan at j.levan@ala.asn.au.

The National Institute of Governance and the APPRN are holding a conference entitled 'FACING THE FUTURE: ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS AND CITIZENS IN DEVELOPING PUBLIC POLICY' at the Australian Institute of Sport on 23 and 24 April. See governance.canberra.edu.au/coming_events.html

The ALA Conference: Call for Papers

While the deadline for formal papers for the ALA conference at the University of Technology Sydney from 27 to 30 November 2003 has passed, there is still an opportunity to submit ideas for the concurrent sessions (workshops; round table discussions; poster sessions; and the like).

Proposals should reach the National Office by 30 April.

If your proposal is accepted you will receive full details as to how to prepare and present your paper or plan your workshop. It is intended to publish a set of refereed proceedings of the conference and there will be a prize for the best research paper presented by a student.

Submissions can be emailed to info@ala.asn.au or sent to: ALA National Conference, PO Box 308 Jamison Centre ACT 2614.

For regular conference updates see www.ala.asn.au/conf/

Website of the Month

The Australian Museum Audience Research Centre (www.amonline.net.au/amarc/) undertakes audience research into a wide range of issues relating to visitor experiences and learning in museums. AMARC's new website is attractive, easy to navigate and a valuable information resource for museums and other professionals in the field. In addition to details of AMARC's varied research and other activities, you will find plenty of fact sheets, links, conference programs and papers.

Don't forget, you can nominate a website that makes innovative use of the web to promote or support adult learning. Email suggestions to info@ala.asn.au.

Francesca Beddie
Executive Director, Adult Learning Australia