

You Can Too

Welcome to the last Current of the year. We have just held a very lively conference in Sydney, a highlight of which was Dr Nelson's launch of a consultation paper on adult learning in Australia. A copy of the paper has been sent to all members with the summer edition of Quest. It can also be downloaded at www.dest.gov.au/research/publications/nov03/you_can_too.htm

Please take some time to consider the paper and send us your comments. We'll keep you informed about further consultative mechanisms and are posting issues we consider important in the members' area of the website. See some notes about the discussion that took place at the conference at www.ala.asn.au/members. There is also a forum on the Learning Communities Catalyst where you can exchange views. See www.lcc.edu.au/lcc/page34.html.

ALA Board

Congratulations to the new Board of ALA:

President: Garry Traynor
Vice-president: Rita Bennink
Treasurer: Vaughan Croucher
Secretary: Roger Morris
Deirdre Baker
Rachel Fry
Karen Ireland
Dorothy Lucardie
Jim Nicholls

ALA Award for an Inspirational Contribution to Learning

Congratulations also to the winner of this year's award, Vione Jorgensen, from Ipswich. Highly commended

were the Overseas Chinese Association of South Australia's taxi training program and the Northcliffe Family Centre's Carers and Sharers program. See www.ala.asn.au/awards.

ANTA Awards

Last year an ACE student won the Vocational Student of the Year. This year an ACE provider has won the Small Training Provider of the Year. Congratulations to the Kyabram Community and Learning Centre. See www.kyabram.com.

Training Packages

The recent ALA conference heard a great deal of comment about training packages. If you have views about the training package system, now is the time to voice your opinion. ANTA is conducting a high-level review of training packages and has issued a consultation paper on which it is inviting comment. See: www.anta.gov.au/highLevel.asp

The public consultation period closes in February 2004. Jim Nicholls has agreed to be the Board member who will gather views from the association. He is particularly interested in the idea of a generic skills package. Please email him your comments at jim@acenc.com.

Flexible Learning Leaders

Next year 64 people from around Australia will be selected to be a Flexible Learning Leader under the Australian Flexible Learning Framework funded through ANTA.

Applicants will be accepted from across state or territory industry advisory bodies, state and territory training authorities, other appropriate vocational education and training (**including ACE**) sector organisations including

supporting units, professional associations or Registered Training Organisations. The sponsoring organisation contributes a minimum of half of the scholarship and this is normally used to provide staff release time to participate in the program.

Application guidelines are available at flexiblelearning.net.au/leaders.

Adult Learning Australia encourages people from the ACE sector to apply. If, after reading the guidelines, you are interested but may have difficulty in finding sponsorship please contact us about possible strategies and options to explore. Contact ritabenn@tafe.sa.edu.au.

Learning Communities

In conjunction with the ALA conference, ANTA hosted a roundtable to gather views about how ANTA can put into action its commitment under the new national strategy to building learning communities. Thank you to all those who attended. To keep the discussion going and to ensure that ALA has input into the formulation of the action plan, we will be posting a paper on the Learning Communities Catalyst, www.lcc.edu.au, in the near future.

Older Workers

ANTA has also released an ideas for action paper on mature age workers. See www.anta.gov.au/dapStrategy.asp. The paper is open for comment until 31 December and we encourage you to send in your views. ALA's comments can be found at www.ala.asn.au/members.

You may also be interested in another recent report, 'Engaging the Untapped Workforce - over 45s, people with disability and from a CALD (culturally and linguistically diverse) background'. It can be found at www.cshta.com.au.

Casualisation

Another hot topic at the conference—yes, it was a lively few days—was the changing nature of the

workforce, and in particular the difficulties for casual staff to access training. An NCVET study discusses the problem, showing that casuals rely on informal learning and networking and considering how this sort of learning might be better recognised and integrated. See 'Getting connected: Professional development of contract and casual staff providing flexible learning' www.ncver.edu.au/cgi-bin/srchCat.pl?list=1427+1416&action=show

WSIS: The World Summit on the Information Society

The World Summit on the Information Society is being held in two phases. The first phase of WSIS takes place in Geneva hosted by the Government of Switzerland from 10 to 12 December 2003. It will address the broad range of themes concerning the Information Society and adopt a Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action. The second phase will take place in Tunis hosted by the Government of Tunisia, from 16 to 18 November 2005. See www.itu.int/wsis.

Knowledge Management Community

www.edna.edu.au/edna/page2092.html

There is a new Knowledge Management (KM) Community on EdNA Online. This is a knowledge-sharing space for all knowledge workers. There is an increasing acceptance of KM in many organisations. Some organisations have successfully implemented KM strategies while others are implementing or interested in KM. The community is encouraging everyone to learn together how we can effectively manage knowledge. You can contribute to this community by suggesting links to KM papers and your own research papers about the subject area.

Website of the month

The Byron Community Knowledge Management project, an initiative of the ACE Training Network, explores how knowledge management can be used to enhance sustainable regional economic development and considers how different sectors exchange knowledge

and information among their participants. The website itself experiments with various ways to facilitate online communication and information exchange through directories, news wires, calendars and collaborative workspaces. Since the project's commencement in April 2003, five communities of practice - Innovators, Professional Artists, Event Organisers, Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Tourism - have been established, each with their own area on the website. www.byronkm.com

Building audiences

For those interested in the cultural sector, there is an interesting article about enhancing access to museums. See mgfnsw.org.au/resources/Newsbrief/NewsbriefNov2003.pdf.

Attention: members with political affiliations

The ALA Board recently decided to ask members with political affiliations to assist the association prepare for an election year. If you are interested in helping, for example, by telling us more about policy directions on education in your party or by channelling information from ALA into party discussions, please contact us.

The staff at the national office wish you all a very pleasant summer. We will be closing the office from 22 December until 19 January.

Francesca Beddie
Executive Director
Adult Learning Australia