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### Farewell

This is my last *Current*. I wish all members the very best and happy and safe Easter holidays. If you wish to stay in touch my private email address is [fbeddie@ozemail.com.au](mailto:fbeddie@ozemail.com.au). There will be an announcement about my replacement very soon!

### *you can too*

ALA's submission to the *you can too* consultation can be found on the ALA website at [www.ala.asn.au](http://www.ala.asn.au).

An ALA delegation (Dorothy Lucardie, Christopher Carroll, Francesca Beddie and Ron Anderson) presented the recommendations contained in the submission to members of the Opposition (Anthony Albanese, Lindsay Tanner and Jenny Macklin from the House of Representatives and Ursula Stephens from the Senate) on 1 April. The delegation congratulated the ALP on its

support for lifelong learning and ACE expressed in the latest platform. (See [http://www.alp.org.au/dload/federal/platform/ch09\\_life\\_long\\_education\\_and\\_training.pdf](http://www.alp.org.au/dload/federal/platform/ch09_life_long_education_and_training.pdf))

All those visited were supportive of adult learning. Mr Albanese is particularly interested in Job Network and apprenticeships for older workers; Mr Tanner is an admirer of neighbourhood houses. His portfolio includes responsibility for community relationships. Ms Macklin expressed agreement with our recommendation for a national policy framework. She also mentioned that the ALP will be looking in further depth at the 15-19 year old cohort. Senator Stephens offered her support in recruiting members of parliament to Adult Learners' Week and foreshadowed other ways for bringing adult learning to attention.

### Bridging Cultures: ALA 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

We are now calling for papers for this year's conference, to be held in Adelaide from 18-20 November. Application forms can be found on the [ALA website](#) home page. Applications close on 17 May 2004. We would also be grateful if you would use your networks to distribute this call far and wide.

### Flexible Learning Leaders

Congratulations to 2004's Flexible Learning leaders and in particular to those representing ACE: Ros Bishop (WA); Jan Hatton (NSW); Leanne Isaacson (SA), Debbie Littlehales (NSW); and Moya White (Vic). For more information, see <http://www.flexiblelearning.net.au/>



### Tender opportunity

The Australian Government has advertised for tenders to purchase an initial 7,500 new vocational education and training places for older workers, parents re-entering the work force and people with a disability. The training places will be available for up to 12 months and must lead to a Certificate II or higher qualification under the Australian Qualifications Framework. However, waivers will be available where clients with special needs require either longer or lower level training. Tenders close at 12 noon, 16 April 2004, with contracts expected to commence mid to late May 2004. Details on the tender are available at [www.dest.gov.au/tenders/tenders.asp](http://www.dest.gov.au/tenders/tenders.asp).

### Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Community Business Partnerships

Nominations close on 16 April! Is your community organisation working in collaboration with a business with outcomes of mutual benefit? If so, visit the site and consider nominating! [www.partnerships.gov.au](http://www.partnerships.gov.au)

### Prison Education

The Centre for Popular Education (University of Technology Sydney) is holding a community forum, *Prison and Post-Release Education? What's Going On & Where Are We Going?* on Wednesday 21 April from 10.00am to 4.30pm. For more information, contact Daniel Ng at [cpe@uts.edu.au](mailto:cpe@uts.edu.au)

### Training packages

*Serving client needs in regional and local communities*, a study of training package delivery in regional Australia underlines that more work needs to be done to meet the needs of local communities. The report recommends resisting the dichotomy between generic and specific skills, acknowledging and funding the role of local training brokers, assessing current funding regimes at the local level and offering appropriate structural support for communities to develop comprehensive training plans. See [www.ncver.edu.au/research/proj/nr2008.pdf](http://www.ncver.edu.au/research/proj/nr2008.pdf)

For those not familiar with training packages, take a look at *Back 2 Basics*, which helps to demystify them! See [www.tpatwork.com](http://www.tpatwork.com).

### [Indigenous education](#)

A new section on the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) website is dedicated to Indigenous education. The site includes ACER research into Indigenous education, publications and reports from external organisations as well as useful links. [http://www.acer.edu.au/research/special\\_topics/indigenous.html](http://www.acer.edu.au/research/special_topics/indigenous.html)

### Skillecosystems

A new online newsletter has been launched to promote new thinking and practice within the vocational education and training (VET) community. Skillecosystem.news will keep you up to date with news from the Australian National Training Authority skillecosystem project. The project's objective is to



better connect work and skills with economic and social development. Skillecosystems are clusters of skills within regions and industries that are shaped by the nature of firms, the characteristics of products and markets, and institutional and policy settings. The skillecosystem project is exploring the role of VET providers within skillecosystems: a new policy framework that shifts the supply-side focus of existing skills policy to wider initiatives that promote greater demand for and use of skills within regions and industries. See

<http://www.skillecosystem.net/about/>

Connecting Up; "Using Information and Communications Technology to Build Australian Communities"

This conference on 3 May 2004 will provide a platform for innovative communities, businesses and governments around Australia to share their experiences, successes and lessons learned from projects designed to build the IT skills of individuals in their communities. Speakers will present case studies about how technology is being used to connect individuals to build and/or serve communities. See <http://www.communit.info/conference/>

Website of the month

The Internet Public Library began in a graduate seminar in the School of Information and Library Studies at the University of Michigan in the Winter 1995 semester. The idea was twofold: (1) to ask some interesting and important questions about the interconnections of libraries, librarians, and librarianship with a world wide distributed networked environment, and (2) to learn a

lot about these issues by actually designing and building something called the Internet Public Library.

What the IPL is trying to do is to explore what the rich history and intellectual traditions of librarianship have to offer the dynamic, but sometimes chaotic world of the Internet. Librarians have tried for a few hundred years to make sense of the world of information and knowledge stored in physical media, so why not try to find out what could be done with digital media?

Nearly ten years on, the IPL is many things:

- It's the first public library of and for the Internet community;
- It's an experiment, trying to discover and promote the most effective roles and contributions of librarians to the Internet and vice versa; and
- It's a group of highly talented, creative, strong-willed people, working hard to keep the world wide public informed.

You can visit the Internet Public Library at [www.ipl.org](http://www.ipl.org).

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