

# The Current

e-news from ALA

number 58

May 2006

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## Editorial

As most of you would you are aware the purpose of *The Current* is to keep you informed about activities at the National Office. Both April and May have been very busy months for us.

Indeed every month seems busy, but I am sure that is nothing new to you.

The ALA Board is meeting in June to discuss future directions and if you have any suggestions about our past performance (good, bad or otherwise) or where you think we should be going as a national peak body, please take the time to make comment to me at [r.anderson@ala.asn.au](mailto:r.anderson@ala.asn.au).

I would really appreciate any comments you might wish to make and I will feed them in aggregated form through to the Board.

## Professional Standards

*Professional standards for Australian Career Development Practitioners* is a booklet commissioned through the Career Industry Council of Australia (CICA).

The standards have been developed to enhance the quality of career development programs and services nationally.

Career development is an important lifelong process relevant to all of us managing personal and working lives, going through transitions and periods where our careers are continually growing. Career development practitioners help people to identify study options, plan career transitions and find career information.

The professional standards consist of:

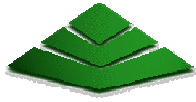
- Competency guidelines
- Entry-level qualifications
- Code of ethics and
- Membership.

For further information about CICA visit [www.cica.org.au](http://www.cica.org.au).

## ALA promotional activities

Peter Murphy and I have recently returned from a very successful visit to Adelaide promoting ALA at both the CISA and AuSAE conferences via display booths set up in key locations at the venue.

We gave away over 250 membership kits and invited people to fill in ALA surveys to help us to improve our services from the National Office as well as making participants aware of ALA.



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We were also pleased to learn that quite a few people knew or had heard about ALA and it was also good to put a face to the many names we come across including the folk from Infoxchange Australia, Jobs Australia and Workventures.

It is also reassuring to learn about the good work many of our colleagues are doing in their communities and the evolving learning opportunities becoming available to people across the country.

We would also like to take other opportunities to attend conferences to market ALA and raise awareness of adult learning in communities, particularly those conferences of other ACE groups throughout the country.

## ACE Aotearoa – Dunedin New Zealand

Deirdre Baker, ALA's Vice President presented a paper at this conference entitled *Social Learning Capital – interlinking social capital, lifelong learning and quality learning conversations*.

This paper will be up on the ALA website shortly.

Peter Murphy also attended the New Zealand ACE Aotearoa Conference, where he presented a workshop on Adult Learners' Week – providing the adult learning community with access to interactive information, opportunities and e-tools.

Keep a look out in an upcoming edition of Quest for a report on his visit.

## Barriers to e-learning

Another paper you may also be interested in viewing on the ALA website is a paper put out by the Digital Bridge Unit, Information Economy Directorate of the South Australian Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology (DFEEST) entitled, *The Digital Divide – Barriers to e-learning*.

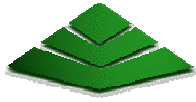
The Digital Bridge Unit commissioned a study to evaluate the barriers to e-learning opportunities for women, people with a disability and indigenous people in metropolitan and regional areas. The report draws together the main findings that have emerged from the study. Follow the link to view the paper at [www.ala.asn.au/](http://www.ala.asn.au/).

## Financial literacy

In the next month, we understand the Financial Literacy Council will be launching a national campaign aimed at raising awareness about the importance of financial literacy. ALA is in the process of partnering with *Money for life* to provide for members a financial literacy program. This will go on sale to members from the 1<sup>st</sup> July.

More information will go up on our website soon.

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## Toolkit for adult learning providers

The National Office also has copies of an earlier publication produced by ALA entitled *Increasing participation – A toolkit for adult learning providers* for sale at a reduced cost of \$20.00 plus GST.

The kit has been developed for use by learning providers and seeks to stimulate discussion among people involved in any one particular learning environment by means of open questions, reading materials and activities.

The kit has been developed using the principles of a learning circle.

If you are interested in purchasing a kit, please contact the National Office on (02) 6274 9500 or via email: [info@ala.asn.au](mailto:info@ala.asn.au).

Until next time.

**Ron Anderson**  
**Executive Director**  
**Adult Learning Australia**

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