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ACAL eNews

April 2011

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1. National Foundation Skills Strategy Consultations

Members of the ACAL Executive from most states and territories received invitations to attend one of the National Foundation Skills Strategy Consultations held recently. Executive members reported that the consultation went some way to providing input and ideas for the NFSS. Lorraine Sushames NT, Jean Searle Qld, and Jenni Anderson, Tasmania were able to represent ACAL in those states. Margaret McHugh, WA, spoke favourably about the component of the WA consultation that used Elluminate for web based conferencing and felt that this method worked well and could be used by DEEWR for a further consultations, for example, with literacy experts. Geri Pancini reported that the meeting in Canberra was well facilitated and productive.

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2. ACAL input to NFSS

ACAL will be submitting a contribution based on a paper Stephen Black and Keiko Yasukawa recently published as an article in Literacy and Numeracy Studies and available on the ACAL Website (<http://www.acal.edu.au/>). Black and Yasukawa's paper being further developed with the assistance of Rosie Wickert as a submission from ACAL to the NFSS.

Dr Rosie Wickert has been engaged by ACAL to assist us in preparing ACAL's submission to the National Foundation Skills Strategy development. Rosie is well known to many of us as a long time adult literacy policy analyst, advocate, researcher and educator. Rosie will be speaking to a number of key stakeholders and working with the ACAL Committee to develop ACAL's response to the DEEWR

consultation paper.

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3. Your input on NFSS

Anyone can make a contribution to this important process through the DEEWR website. The site also allows for audio contributions. Reminder: the date for submissions is by COB **Wednesday, 20 April 2011**.

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4. NFSS and Elluminate

The NFSS consultation meeting for regional stakeholders in Western Australia was held in Elluminate. Use of the virtual classroom for such an event was certainly new to the consultants and DEEWR staff, however the technology served our purposes extremely well. The consultants were impressed by the 'rich data' that was collected, and as a participant, I was certainly impressed by the quality of the discussion. Given the success of the WA experiment, this technology could be used more often to consult, cheaply and effectively, with stakeholders in different locations. ACAL could explore with DEEWR the possibility of using Elluminate to host further discussion with the language, literacy and numeracy field as they develop the national strategy.

Margaret McHugh

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5. Reports

There have been a number of recent and relevant reports on LLN and the National Foundation Skills Strategy. ACAL has endeavoured to keep pace with these reports and they can be found on the ACAL website.

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6. 'No More Excuses'

'No More Excuses' is one such report is and this is from the Executive Summary 'Language, literacy and numeracy (LLN) are the essential underpinning skills that enable people to be productive in their work, to continue to learn and develop, and to participate fully in society. This is an obvious statement, the truth of which has been recognised for decades. But it needs to be made, as progress to a satisfactory situation has been slow:

- Literally millions of Australians have insufficient LLN skills to benefit fully from training or to participate effectively at work
- The situation looks as if it could be getting worse, not better: the LLN performance of Australian students¹ has, over the past decade, worsened in comparison to other OECD countries
- Access to LLN expertise at the right time in the right way remains limited.

The Industry Skills Councils (ISCs) believe that responsibility for building the LLN skills of Australians should be shared by industry and all education sectors. Nothing less than a co-ordinated response to the LLN challenge will succeed. To achieve this, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) should establish an overarching blueprint for action on LLN in Australia 2012-2022 to identify and address long-term goals that will profoundly shift the capacity of learners and the workforce and

significantly impact our nation's future.'

See the full document at <http://www.acal.edu.au>

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7. Literacy on the Map: Common Visions, Different Paths – 26 to 28, Sept 2011

The Call for Papers is still open – why not get on your hobbyhorse or recent insights or experience?

Go to <http://www.valbec.org.au/2011conf/call.htm>

Sponsorship opportunities are also available for large and small organisations. See the options at <http://www.valbec.org.au/2011conf/sponsorship.htm>

Keep up to date via <http://www.valbec.org.au/2011conf/>

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8. Membership renewal overdue

We'll be getting out the red pen to remind people their membership is overdue. Act now – dig it out from the bottom of the to-do pile or ask us for a new invoice

info@acal.edu.au

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9. Unsubscribe

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