

**Subject: ACAL eNews Feb 2009**

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**From:** ACAL <info@acal.edu.au>

**ACAL eNews  
February 2009**

**ACAL eNews** is the electronic newsletter of the Australian Council of Adult Literacy (ACAL) and is distributed free to people interested in adult literacy and numeracy. See below for subscription details or to unsubscribe.

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**1. Adult Literacy National Project funding lost**

A recent COAG decision has removed adult literacy funding supporting the *Reading Writing Hotline*, the Adult Literacy Innovative Projects, ACAL's *Literacy Live* and *Literacy Link* projects and a range of other activities.

ACAL wrote to the Federal Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, and the Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion, Ursula Stephens, expressing concerns about the loss of funding for the Adult Literacy National Project. Go to the ACAL website <http://www.acal.edu.au> to read the correspondence and get the background information.

We encourage members to write to their state and federal politicians alerting them to the loss of the national funding for adult literacy.

You may have students who phoned the Reading Writing Hotline. Perhaps they would like to write letters to politicians describing the service they had and its effect on their lives.

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**2. Impact on ACAL and Literacy Link**

ACAL produced *Literacy Link* with funding from DEEWR from the Adult Literacy National Project. The national newsletter was distributed free of charge to almost 2000 individuals and organisations. Without Government funding, ACAL can no longer afford to produce *Literacy Link*. One more free issue will come out around Easter – if our readers want *Literacy Link* to continue, this will need to be on a subscription basis. Other ACAL activity is also affected by the loss of funding. The *Literacy Live* professional development forums will cease or be drastically reduced.

ACAL will continue to lobby for the interests of literacy teachers and students. ACAL eNews will continue to come out on a regular basis.

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### **3. From Strength to Strength**

ACAL 32nd Annual Conference, 1-3 Oct 2009

ACAL Conference 2009 – put it in your diary now!

The conference website is now live. Register your interest at <http://www.waalc.org.au/O9conf/> so you get updates promptly throughout the year. And don't forget to put Fremantle, Western Australia in your diary for 1-3 October 2009. The conference based on the theme From Strength to Strength will offer an important professional learning opportunity. It will inspire and invigorate you for the important work you do in second chance education. Successful adult literacy practices historically have a focus on identifying and building on strengths. The conference will give new practitioners access to this heritage and the rest of us the chance to develop new practices relevant to our current needs.

This year's ACAL conference offers an exciting holiday opportunity. Spring in Western Australia is the prime time to visit and the conference location in Fremantle provides the ideal launching point for a holiday that takes in Perth, the South West, Margaret River or Monkey Mia. See the website for more information.

Cheryl Wiltshire, Conference convenor

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### **4. Healthy Societies: Addressing 21st Century Health Challenges**

A recently released report argues for four ways to take health literacy forward in South Australia: strengthen alliances; strengthen health literacy within the health sector; strengthen health literacy with partners; support research, training and education. The results of the report have implications for the adult literacy field as we seek to understand how the health+literacy equation produces challenges and new opportunities for a range of government agencies and educators.

The report "Healthy Societies: Addressing 21st Century Health Challenges" was produced as part of the South Australian Thinkers in Residence Program and is available at the following link. <http://www.sapo.org.au/pub/pub12825.html>

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### **5. How to make money and improve your sex life - everyday applications of health literacy**

Health is a personal, community and societal asset and health literacy is fundamental to the successful management of this asset at all levels. Health literacy is not just about understanding the health system but rather is about empowering people and communities to engage more effectively in consistently making healthy life choices. How systems of the future can support this is a crucial issue in many political portfolios. A joint initiative of the SA Health Literacy Alliance, the Public Health Association of Australia (SA Branch) and the Australian Health Promotion Association to the PHC Strategy.

Wednesday 18th February 2009

The Education Development Centre

Milner St, Hindmarsh, Adelaide, South Australia.

6.00 – 9.00pm Cost including GST (a light meal will be provided): \$40.00 Non-Members; \$25.00 Members of the PHAA, HLA or AHPA; \$10 Full-time students  
RSVP necessary by Tuesday 10th February. Please request registration details from  
Victoria Shtangey - [victoria.shtangey@health.sa.gov.au](mailto:victoria.shtangey@health.sa.gov.au)

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## 6. Global Campaign for Education

ACAL Executive members Debbie Soccio and Sue Shore have been working with the Global Campaign for Education (GCE <http://www.campaignforeducation.org/>) to build numbers for their global readathon during Global Action Week (April 20-26th 2009). During Action Week 2008 GCE attracted close to 9 million people to participate in the 'World's Biggest Lesson'. In 2009 GCE is focusing on Youth, Adult Literacy and Lifelong learning and organising a 'Big Read'. People around the world will participate in reading stories written by remarkable people about how literacy makes a difference in their lives. This is a great opportunity to connect Australian LLN learners students with other learners around the world and give them an opportunity to speak out about how literacy fits (or not) in their lives. If you support this venture you will be involved in getting as many people as possible in your organisation/area to take part in the BIG READ – this means reading the *Story Book* supplied in the GCE materials and appending participant names and sending the validation forms off to GCE. Include ACAL in your validation forms and this will build our profile as an agency concerned with promotion and support of adult literacy practices in Australia and around the globe. To be part of the Big Read download the Planning Pack and the Resource Pack from the GCE website <http://www.campaignforeducation.org/> A third Media Pack will be available soon.

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## 7. 'Navigating Laneways' VALBEC Conference - May 8, 2009

at the William Angliss Conference Centre, Melbourne

<http://www.valbec.org.au>

The conference title reflects the many complexities and constraints that practitioners find themselves steering through and around in a changing, and increasingly regulated, education and policy environment. The signposts and maps of the past that have provided direction to the teaching profession and the wider ACE and adult education fields have been revised and rewritten so that new ways of working are required.

Call for papers closes February 23.

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