



## **Your 2023 Committee**

Following our AGM, your 2023 ATESOL ACT Committee has some familiar faces, a welcome returnees and some new and also very welcome members. It is inspiring that these generous people have stepped up to support EAL/D teachers' professional lives in the ACT.

For details about your 2023 Committee, click [here](#).

## **Exciting Professional Learning Events Coming Up**

We have two great face-to-face PL events lined up, and are planning a third *plus* the ATESOL ACT dinner.

As you may have worked out, joining ATESOL ACT means big discounts on PL registration fees, so it's worth doing. To celebrate the end (we hope) of lockdowns, these events will be face-to-face workshops with lots of interaction!

### **"Just Like Sitting with the Teacher" – Personalising Feedback to Students Using Screen-casting Video. A hands-on workshop with Lesley Cioccarelli**

**Saturday 24th June 2023, 2 – 4pm, Sacred Heart PS, Pearce.**

We've invited Lesley to offer an extended, hands-on version of the short session she did last year in preparation for her successful presentation at the ACTA conference. She'll explain the advantages of providing feedback using video and will assist you to learn the main techniques for screencasting. As old ATESOL ACT hands will know, Lesley is an accomplished PL presenter and a total digital skills whiz! If you've been to one of her workshops before, you'll know what I'm talking about. If you haven't, you've been missing something, so don't let that happen again. The workshop is suitable for teachers at all levels with all ages from mid-primary upwards, including adults.

Click [here](#) for more information and to register through our lovely new website.

### **Teaching Language Through Drama. A Workshop with Dr Jodie Whitehurst**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 2-4pm, venue TBA**

Based on rave reviews from the ACTA conference, your Committee is bringing the fabulous Jodie Whitehurst up from Melbourne to conduct an energising workshop, where you'll learn accessible and practical drama techniques to engage and motivate EAL students while enhancing language learning outcomes. No previous experience needed! Here's part of a review from Julie Choi at Melbourne Uni:

*"My students/teachers have so much fun, it's crazy! By the end of her lesson, all of our inhibitions are unleashed."*

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.



**SAVE THE DATES: Details soon!**

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2-4pm: Grammar Workshop with Margaret McBride.**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September, 6pm: ATESOL ACT dinner with Margaret Turnbull as Guest Speaker.**

## ***Reports on Professional Learning in Term 1***

### **Interpreter Workshop & Annual General Meeting.**

Our AGM was preceded by an excellent workshop on working with interpreters, led by **Glenn Flanagan, Team Leader Community Development & Training, Companion House**. Glenn facilitated role plays with his interpreter team, demonstrating both face-to-face interpreting and phone interpreting.

For photos from the AGM and the Workshop, click [here](#).

### **Teaching Spelling and Vocabulary to EAL/D Learners**

On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2023, **Dr Misty Adoniou, Adjunct University of Canberra, Principal Fellow Melbourne Graduate School of Education**, presented this fascinating 2 hour TQI accredited session. Participants were encouraged to share ideas about the importance of word meanings and to use rich literature to assist students with making connections in context. There were opportunities to explore student work samples, discuss the latest trends in educational research, and consider a differentiated approach to the use of oral language. Misty offered some great insights into word origins and demonstrated practical classroom strategies for engaging learners to explore the links between words and their spellings. Her final message was:

- Have high expectations
- Start with meaning
- Show multiple ways into words
- Build curiosity about words
- Have fun!

You can access Misty's fantastic Power Point slides and reading list [here](#).



## Showcasing ATESOLACT at the Australian Catholic University, Watson Campus

Members of the ATESOLACT committee took the opportunity to raise our association's profile with final year Education students at the ACU Showcase during April. **Many thanks to the ACU for inviting us!** There were lots of keen students sharing their pre-service experiences, asking questions about the role of EAL/D specialists in the classroom and excited to take advantage of our **free student memberships**. We gave away a lucky door prize that gave free entry to a forthcoming 2023 professional learning event. Student memberships increased with our easy online sign-up option through our fabulous new website. We look forward to engaging with our student and **early career teacher members, who can now access reduced membership rates**. *Please pass on the message re free and reduced membership rates!* For details, click [here](#).

## **TESOL in Context**

To download your free issue of ACTA's internationally recognised journal, click [here](#).

The most recent issue includes four articles that complement each other in their focus and arguments concerning:

- political ideologies
- the commodification of English as an additional language/dialect (EAL/D)
- teaching and the professional training needs of both EAL/D and mainstream teachers in Australian education.

## **On-line PL opportunities**

### VicTESOL Virtual Events

For fabulous on-line PL from VicTESOL that you can access at members' rates. For example:

- Digital Literacies in EAL Special Interest Group (SIG Ongoing Virtual Event) **June 7<sup>th</sup>**
- Professional learning for EAL teachers in the context of digital transformation in the VET sector **July 26<sup>th</sup>**
- The role of schools in supporting settlement: Focusing on wellbeing in migrant and refugee education. **August 30**

To register and for more information, go [here](#).



## ACTA Notifications

To receive notifications of events placed on the ACTA website, click on **Subscribe** [here](#).

## **Important News**

The new Commonwealth Government has been busy! That has meant a slew of proposals to which responses have been made on your behalf!

If you'd be interested in joining one of the ACTA groups mentioned below, please contact me at: [president@atesolact.org.au](mailto:president@atesolact.org.au)

## Schools

- 1 Commonwealth Education Minister Jason Clare has set up an **Expert Panel and Ministerial Reference Group** with the task of recommending on creating a **better and fairer education system through the next National Schools Reform Agreement**. ACTA is represented in the Reference Group.

Our inclusion in this group is a direct outcome of the submissions drafted by Michael Michell and myself over the last couple of years, including on the National Schools Reform Agreement, Teacher Education and the ACTA EAL/D Schools Roadmap. Our advocacy has focussed on explicitly naming Indigenous, migrant-background and refugee EAL/D learners as a “national priority cohort”. Unless and until this happens, our concerns as EAL/D professionals will continue to be marginalised and low priority.

- 2 **The Australian Education Union and ACTA have issued a joint statement on rebuilding of English language and literacy programs in schools**. The AEU has agreed to work with ACTA to promote this issue.

***Please pass on these developments to your colleagues and higher-ups!***

For more information on the Expert Panel and Reference group, go to:

[Expert panel to inform a better and fairer education system | Ministers' Media Centre National School Reform Agreement Ministerial Reference Group | Ministers' Media Centre \(education.gov.au\)](#)

For the AEU-ACTA Joint Statement, go to: <https://www.aeufederal.org.au/news-media/media-releases/2023/may/180523>

For ACTA submissions, go to:

[Advocacy – Australian Council of TESOL Associations](#)

For the ACTA submission on Teacher Education, go to: [Quality Initial Teacher Education Review Submissions - Department of Education, Australian Government](#)



## Adults

1. The newly formed Department of Employment & Workplace Relations (DEWR), led by Minister Brendan O'Connor, has committed to **major reforms in Foundations Skills provision**. The May budget includes two important developments:

- Removal of the “job seeker” requirement for **eligibility for the SEE Program**
- **Two funding streams:**  
*Stream 1* targets those with literacy and Foundations Skills needs. It also allows for both contracts and place-based grants (i.e. not contracts). The assumption is that EAL/D learner needs will be met through the AMEP.  
*Stream 2* is for place-based grants for *First Nations students*. The aim is to increase flexibility and to allow people to develop specific proposals to suit their local circumstances. For the first time, “flexibility” might mean what it says!

I represent ACTA in the **DEWR Foundation Skills Advisory Group**, which is a high level broadly representative group across various areas, including Adult Literacy, Indigenous, Indigenous Disability, and the Adult Literacy Hot Line. The Department’s responsiveness to the robust concerns expressed in this group has been impressive and the group warmly welcomed the announcements above. The promise is for further meetings to pursue specific issues, for example, developing the LLNP teacher workforce. If you would like comments or ideas passed on through this Advisory Group, please write to me [president@atesolact.org.au](mailto:president@atesolact.org.au)

2. In conjunction with this role and in consultation with the ACTA Adult ESOL Consultancy Group, I drafted an ACTA submission in response to a Discussion Paper on the forthcoming **national Survey of Foundation Skills**.
3. With this same ACTA Consultancy Group, I also drafted ACTA’s response to the **Review of the Australian Core Skills Framework and Digital Literacy Skills Framework and relevant assessment tools**. In this submission, we stated that ACTA supported only the limited use of the ACSF for placement purposes.
4. **The AMEP**. Following up on an ACTA submission entitled *Key Issues in Determining Future Settings for the AMEP*, ACTA Adult ESOL Representatives met for an hour with the Advisor to Immigration Minister Giles and the chief official responsible for the AMEP in the Dept. of Home Affairs. Although the meeting was cordial, it was left to ACTA to make further input on the key issues we raised, namely:
- the deleterious effects of competitive contracting,
  - the role of KPIs (and their weaknesses)
  - issues re qualifications, especially the TAE Cert IV.

It is disappointing that the Department of Home Affairs has not adopted a similar approach to DEWR above post last year’s election.



I hope to place the DEWR reforms and ACTA submissions on the ACTA website soon. In the meantime, please contact me if you would like copies: [president@atesolact.org.au](mailto:president@atesolact.org.au).

## Indigenous Languages and EAL/D

First Languages Australia released a **discussion paper on Indigenous Languages Priorities Paper — First Languages Australia**. In consultation with the ACTA Indigenous EAL/D Consultancy Group, I drafted a response to the Paper. We commended the Paper but also argued that EAL/D and Indigenous languages needed to be considered as complimentary. As we also argued in our submission on Closing the Gap, ACTA is concerned that Indigenous languages are being considered in a silo with little reference to their various role in many other aspects of the lives of First Nations people. I hope to place the ACTA submission on our website soon but please contact me if you'd like a copy.

For the **ACTA submission on Closing the Gap**, see submission 11 at [View submissions and brief comments - Closing the Gap Review - Productivity Commission \(pc.gov.au\)](#) Other submissions are also worth reading.

**To sign up to show your support for the Voice to Parliament, go to:**  
[Who We Are | Multicultural Australia For Voice \(multiculturalforvoice.org\)](http://multiculturalforvoice.org)

## ***Your help needed***

A team of researchers at the University of the Sunshine Coast, Western Sydney University and RMIT are seeking find teachers to participate in [a survey for culturally and linguistically diverse teachers in Australia](#).

If that's you, the research team would love you to share your experiences by taking the survey. There is also an opportunity to participate further, in an interview, or by sharing an artistic response to the research topic. For all relevant information about the project, plus a consent form and all other ethical information, please go to: [https://uniofsunshinecoast.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_dmpjIRUzU9xbw2](https://uniofsunshinecoast.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dmpjIRUzU9xbw2) or write to Rachael Dwyer: [rdwyer@usc.edu.au](mailto:rdwyer@usc.edu.au).

I suspect the above is more than enough to hold your interest, so will sign off here.

With best wishes,

**Helen Moore, AM, PhD**

**President**

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