



## **2021 President's Report**

The past year has been a most memorable one and particularly so for those working in the TESOL sector. The local Associations responded in many different ways to support teachers, including working with each other in the cross promotion of events.

Meanwhile, there was much going on at ACTA and I'd like to highlight a few of these things.

### ***TESOL in Context***

It has been a huge achievement in 2020 of ACTA reaching the 30th year of publishing *TESOL in Context*. The current editorial teams are finishing their term with *TESOL in Context*; I would like to thank the editors and acknowledge the significant contribution that Dr Shem Macdonald and Dr Rod Neilsen have made as editors and as editorial representatives of the working group, as well as the contribution that Dr Ruth Arber and Dr Michiko Weinmann have made as editors for TiC. I'd also like to acknowledge the work of guest editors Dr Vincent Backhaus and Henry Fraser over the last 2 years on the special themed issue: *TESOL in Context - Growing TESOL in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander contexts*. Welcome to the new editorial teams commencing with *TESOL in Context* for 2021!

### **Schools Working Group**

The ACTA Schools Working group provided feedback to ACARA on the Australian Curriculum: English. This included detailed recommendations on the draft content and achievement standards. The WG also recommended that ACARA consider the EAL/D annotated content descriptions (part of the ACARA EAL/D teacher resource <https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/resources/student-diversity/meeting-the-needs-of-students-for-whom-english-is-an-additional-language-or-dialect/> ) when revising the curriculum elaborations.

ACARA also agreed to include two ACTA reps on the ACARA diversity interest group which meets regularly to discuss all matters related to Assessment Curriculum and Reporting from the diverse perspectives of students with additional learning needs, gifted and talented students and EAL/D students. Thanks to Pippa and Lauren who are our active reps on the group.

The Working group has updated the national mapping of EAL/D provision in states and territories. This will be a document which will inform our advocacy and we hope to publish it on the website shortly.

Thanks to Marg Turnbull and the Working Group for all their work during the year.



## **Adult Working Group**

ACTA has been very busy in the Adult space!

We have held two forums (the first such events for ACTA) with Alison Larkins, Commonwealth Co-ordinator General for Migrant Services, with attendance over-subscribed (500 webinar; 100 Zoom forum).

During the year, ACTA contributed two significant submissions to Government Inquiries: In May 2020, to the Senate COVID-19 Inquiry and in March 2021 to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Importance of Adult Literacy.

Other policy papers were submitted to the Dept. of Home Affairs: In June 2020 a letter to the Immigration Minister regarding the future of the AMEP and in July 2020 a Briefing Paper on the AMEP for a meeting with Alison Larkins, newly appointed Commonwealth Co-ordinator General for Migrant Services.

In 2020 ACTA also conducted a national survey on the Effects of COVID-19 on Post-School EAL Educators.

Helen Moore is to be congratulated on her considerable advocacy work over the past year. Her appointment in October 2020 to the AMEP Advisory Committee to the Dept. of Home Affairs is an acknowledgement of her depth of knowledge and experience.

## **Website and Communications**

There has been significant work done on improving the website and in posting on the Facebook page, which has been very much led by Lesley Ciocarelli. As Lesley steps down, I'd like to thank her for her wonderful contribution to ACTA over many years. Teachers will continue to benefit from her work through improved access to news and events and we hope that the sharing of professional learning opportunities will assist in attracting new members to local associations. Best wishes to you Lesley!

Farewell too, to Jennifer! As a member of ATESOL ACT for 25 years, and as ACT rep on ACTA since 2012, needless to say, Jennifer has made an enormous contribution. She has been ACTA Treasurer for most of that time, as well an active member of various working groups. On behalf of ACTA, I would like to thank Jennifer very much for her hard work and commitment; her knowledge and attention to detail will really be missed.

Lastly, thank you to all the ACTA councillors who have contributed in different ways during the past year. In particular, thanks to Deb Icely, who is stepping away from ACTA after the AGM. Her work in the role of Secretary over the past year has been much appreciated.

I look forward to working with the new ACTA representatives in the coming year, to explore ways to support the work of teachers through stronger collaboration between local associations and to advocate for the EALD sector.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. G.", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Margaret Corrigan

2020 President