

President's Report

The past year continued to challenge us in many ways, particularly with the continuing stresses of the pandemic, however through this, ACTA has been working really productively on a number of projects and I will highlight some of these.

TiC

ACTA's TESOL in Context journal has had a very strong year, with the new editorial teams in full swing and with the promotion of the 30th anniversary edition *TESOL in Context - Growing TESOL in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander contexts*. ACTA collaborated with VicTESOL in November to host a wonderful online event at which several contributors to the edition presented. This engaging panel discussion was a very popular event! We look forward to the upcoming edition which focuses on Early Childhood Education. I would especially like to thank Carly Minett for all her work in the co-ordinator's role – she has overseen the TiC journal go from strength to strength and with the increased numbers of readers we are seeing, we can see its importance to practitioners in the TESOL sector.

Schools Working Group

The ACTA Schools Working group has continued to be actively involved in advocacy projects, including making a submission to the Inquiry into Initial Teacher Education, in mapping out the data related to EAL/D provision in schools across Australia and in developing a roadmap for the future of EAL/D provision in the schools sector. There is much to consider in this complex space and I would especially like to thank Michael Michel and Marg Turnbull for their commitment to mapping out a clear sense of direction for ACTA advocacy in this area.

ACTA Consultancy Groups

During the year ACTA saw the creation of two new consultancy groups, the Early Childhood Education Consultancy group, convened by Anne Keary and the Indigenous EAL/D Education consultancy group, co-convened by Liz Easton and Helen Moore.

Each of these groups is working to strengthen ACTA's focus so that it includes voices of experts across all elements of the TESOL sector. With the assistance

of experts in the field, each group is working to develop a clear manifesto to support ACTA's advocacy work in the future.

Adult Working Group

ACTA has been very involved in advocating for the adult sector, in particular in relation to giving strong feedback to the Department of Home Affairs on the proposed new AMEP contract as well as in relation to providing feedback to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Adult Literacy.

Thanks once again to Helen Moore for being both consistent in her messaging and persistent in advocating for improvement and change in this very important area of policy.

Conference

Due to the uncertainties and complexities created by Covid, the 2020, then 2021 ACTA conference had to be postponed yet again. My thanks go to Gae Nastasi and the QATESOL conference team who have had to deal with an extraordinarily long gestation period! We are all really looking forward to a successful conference this coming September, at which we can finally meet up face to face to enjoy some professional learning and networking.

Lastly, thank you to all the ACTA councillors who have contributed in different ways during the past year. To the members of the Executive who have worked really hard behind the scenes to keep everything ticking over; thanks to VP- Helen Moore, Treasurer- Clare Blackman and Secretary- Lauren Quinn. The contributions you have each made over the year are really appreciated. I'd like to especially acknowledge the contribution and commitment of Michael Michel who has been a most supportive and active Immediate Past President.

I look forward to supporting the new ACTA Executive in the coming year, in my role as Immediate Past President. I wish the Council and local State and Territory associations all the best in their important endeavours to strengthen the EAL/D sector.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. G.' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal stroke that ends in a small upward curve.

Margaret Corrigan

2021 President