



ATESOL ACT 2019 AGM President's Report

It is my privilege to report on the activities of ATESOL ACT over 2018 and into 2019. We remain the only professional association for teachers that is solely dedicated to catering for the specialist profession of teachers working with people learning English as their second or additional language, throughout all school systems and within the adult sector. It is from the perspective of advocating for the integrity and quality of our specialisation that ATESOL ACT must continue to operate as a vital element within the life of teachers.

We started 2018 with planning the best way forward for developing advocacy initiatives to government in both school and adult sectors. The ability to articulate on behalf of our members is a crucial part of the existence of the association. Through the skilled leadership of our Vice President Helen Moore, a sub group of committee members dedicated much time to discuss and plan the most effective approach. The valuable expertise of long serving committee member Jennifer Mayers was an undeniable asset in formulating a survey for school teachers, designed to delve into questions of qualifications, accountability of funding and student need. Lis O'Daly was instrumental in devising a survey for teachers in the adult sector, exploring the major issues of new programs and approaches within the Adult Migrant English Program. Feedback through these surveys enabled us to hold an open roundtable meeting with teachers, politicians and senior public servants. The purpose of the meeting was for members to be able to ask questions of government, centred on problems, and enable the association to collaborate with government on developing solutions to these problems. It is now clear that continuing these discussions with the offices of the government representatives in attendance is a priority for ATESOL ACT in 2019.

Throughout 2018 we continued our initiative to connect with TESOL professionals by hosting the Meet and Greet social/networking events each school term. This is a valuable opportunity for teachers from each system and sector to build both professional and social connections while demonstrating that membership of a professional association is supportive of an individual's professional growth.

Professional learning events in 2018 were characterised by an international flavour. We were privileged to host Joe Dale from the UK to describe his passion for utilising multimedia applications within language teaching and assessment. His in-depth workshop was both popular and well-attended and feedback from workshop participants showed an eagerness for continued learning in this area. Joe is a regular visitor to Australia so we hope to plan future events with him.

Honorary ATESOL ACT Life Member connected us with TESOL colleague Dr Polina Vinogradova who visited Australia from her base in Washington DC. She led a workshop centred on the definition of advocacy and how power and contextual factors impact beliefs about advocacy for English language learners. Participants were supported to prepare a realistic advocacy plan suited to their own context.

We are fortunate to have members with expertise in areas that support professional growth in TESOL. Member Lesley Cioccarelli led a workshop around exploring how people connect using social media with a focus on how developing one's own professional learning is possible using these platforms.

Association of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages ACT. Incorporated.

ATESOL ACT Inc., P. O. Box 3022, 2603 Manuka ACT



2019 has commenced with serious considerations of how we are able to connect with members and grow as an association. Continuing to hold professional learning events, advocate for English language teachers supporting their students and connect and learn from each other will remain our goals.

Thank you for supporting ATESOL ACT in 2018. Thank you to the committee members who have given voluntarily of their time and passion to run events and activities. This commitment allows the association to exist for our members.

Bronwyn Singh

President 2018