



ATESOL ACT 2020 AGM President's Report

As 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, across all school systems and within the adult sector, our activities in 2019 reached across this spectrum.

As a Teacher Quality Institute accredited provider of professional learning programs we provided valuable professional learning for our members and teachers. In May, our very own member and current secretary Mei French, led our first event, about ***Leading EAL/D Professional Learning Within Schools***. Mei shared key points to a successful plan that enables teachers to lead the implementation of guiding colleagues in professional learning related to the EAL/D students in any context. By presenting a case study of past experience to do this, Mei allowed attendees to consider their own context and start making a practical plan. Feedback about this program related to the high degree of usefulness for teachers.

In September, we hosted Margaret Turnbull from the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation, NSW Government, to lead professional learning about ***Comparing the ACARA EAL/D Learning Progression and the Literacy Learning Progression***. Attendees were provided with clear explanations about how the two documents compare and also given opportunity to examine student samples of language in writing, reading and speaking to consider an appropriate phase of development in the progression. Participants again gave feedback about the extremely valuable learning gained and insights into key differences between literacy and language learning and how to advocate for their language learners with regards to assessment.

November saw us again host a TESOL colleague from NSW, Dr Gill Pennington, to share from her research about the power of teaching language through stories in ***Multilingual Storyboxes***. She showed the powerful impact and practical strategies to help all students, and particularly EAL/D learners, to make progress in language skills and also share their identity, through connecting with the rich language provided in authentic literature.

It is through connecting with our colleagues in the TESOL associations in other states and territories that we are able to provide engaging and dynamic professional learning opportunities.

We supported teachers in the adult sector by holding interactive online workshops to understand ***Using the Certificates of Spoken and Written English*** in October and November. One of the curriculum writers, Darren Curl from TAFE NSW, provided an overview to how the certificates link to the Australian Qualifications Framework and the Australian Skills Quality Authority. He also responded to a wide variety of queries in a Q & A session. Participants communicated with us that having the opportunity to discuss the CSWE was an extremely valuable experience.

In late August, we hosted Dorothy Hoddinott from Sydney as the speaker at our ***Annual Dinner***. Attendees were spellbound as she shared about her wide-ranging experience in the TESOL space. From being an advocate in early days of TESOL associations, both at state and national level, to being principal of a Sydney high school with a high percentage of English language learners, including from a migrant and refugee background, those present were in full agreement with her passion and drive.

Thank you for your membership, attendance and support in 2019. The association remains dedicated to catering for teachers working with English language learners throughout 2020.

Bronwyn Singh

President, 2019

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

ATESOL ACT Inc., PO Box 3022, Manuka ACT 2603