



**15th Annual General Meeting of ASLIA National
Sunday 23rd August 2009, Melbourne, Victoria**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In presenting my second President's report to the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Sign Language Interpreters' Association (ASLIA National), I would like first of all to re-visit the vision statement, mission and goals outlined in the strategic plan of the organisation, in order to provide us a context for considering what we have achieved over the last year. The report will be structured by outlining activities in relation to each of the goals.

ASLIA National Vision Statement

To lead and promote best practice in signed language interpreting across Australia.

ASLIA National Mission

ASLIA National is the peak body representing signed language interpreters through:

- Collaborative partnerships and engagement with practitioners and communities.
- Providing value, relevance and leadership regarding the signed language interpreting profession.
- Contributing to the interpreting and translation body of knowledge and expertise.

Goals

1. To strengthen the position of ASLIA National as the peak body representing signed language interpreters in Australia
2. To maintain and enhance collaboration with the Deaf community
3. To sustain and increase a financial foundation to support organisational objectives
4. To model best practice and leadership in signed language interpreting
5. To influence and guide awareness and understanding of the sign language interpreting profession
6. To further the knowledge and expertise concerning the sign language interpreting profession
7. To engage with and advance the opportunities of under-represented practitioners and communities (i.e., Regional and remote, Deaf Relay interpreters, Deafblind and Indigenous)

Summary of major accomplishments and initiatives in line with goals outlined in the ASLIA National strategic plan

Goals

To strengthen the position of ASLIA National as the peak body representing signed language interpreters in Australia

- Dissemination of a further discussion paper following on from presentation and discussion at the ANC08 concerning a national membership structure for ASLIA. Suggestions from members raised at ANC07, ANC08 and submitted in writing by individuals and state associations.
- Input into the TIB09 training package consultative group, to ensure that the outcomes met the needs of training Auslan/English interpreters as well as spoken language interpreters and translators. Thanks to Marcel Leneham for representing ASLIA National on this group.
- Development of new 'one ASLIA' brand – after refining the winning entry from Josie Hodgetts (WA) in the logo competition in consultation with a professional graphic designer, the new logo will be adopted by ASLIA National and all states. One logo – only difference is the name of state. One colour – one brand – uniform image.
- Development and launch of complementary branded stationary e.g., document and business card templates
- Development and launch of new website, using new logo and colours. Much more user friendly site with access to information and resources.

To maintain and enhance collaboration with the Deaf community

- Participating in a working group on Video Relay Services, convened by Deaf Australia
- Continued collaboration on the joint Interpreting Taskforce with Deaf Australia and other industry representatives to address issues facing the interpreting profession and the supply and demand challenges/training issues for the profession.
- Presentation to a forum organised by Deaf Australia to discuss interpreting issues in South Australia (August 2009)

To sustain and increase a financial foundation to support organisational objectives

- Biggest achievement over the last year was to secure seeding funds from key deafness sector organisations to employ a secretariat. Funding provided by NABS, Australian Communication Exchange, Auslan Services, On-Call, Deaf Society of NSW, VicDeaf, WA Deaf Society, Tasmanian Deaf Society and Deaf Services Queensland. Former ASLIA National board member Kylie Scott is the new secretariat, and has worked tirelessly since she was appointed in April. She has submitted various grant applications on behalf of the organization, and is constantly seeking further funding opportunities.
- Secured funding from Australian Communication Exchange for a 3 year project to deliver online training opportunities to all members for a minimal fee. Announced at the conference dinner on Saturday night.

To model best practice and leadership in signed language interpreting

- ASLIA National has clearly lead and promoted best practice in signed language interpreting across Australia over the last year in many ways. Much work has been done on various projects, and in discussion with organisations such as NAATI, NABS, Deaf Australia and the Australian Communication Exchange.
- Coordination of the National Interpreter of the Year awards
- Provided sponsorship of the keynote address at the International Association of Translation & Intercultural Studies Conference, held in July 2009; by providing interpretation of the British deaf keynote presenter's paper
- Provided representation to World Association Task Force on Education & Training in the development of a mission statement for supporting the development of interpreter training and education in countries without established programs

To influence and guide awareness and understanding of the signed language interpreting profession

- TIB09 input
- Worked with NAATI Auslan panel to submit suggestions for changes to membership of panel and general test administration procedures
- Negotiation with ASLIA VIC for ATB to become the ASLIA National magazine. First edition launched at ANC09.

To further the knowledge and expertise concerning the signed language interpreting profession

- Selected JW Flynn Orator for 2009.
- Assisted ASLIA VIC in hosting ANC09 on behalf of ASLIA National. Acknowledge Ben Souter as original ANC09OC chair who won bid, and Susan Emerson as succeeding Chair and rest of OC for outstanding standards with conference.
- The fact that we have delegates from five different countries outside of Australia attending our National Conference once again this year demonstrates that fact that ASLIA National is leading the way in our field, not only in Australia, but on the international stage. Additionally, the explosion in the number of delegates attending the conference indicates that ASLIA National has instilled values of professional best practice in its members.
- Provided support for dissemination of research – study being conducted by Karen Bontempo and Jemina Napier in collaboration with colleagues in USA, to distribute an international survey to signed language interpreters across the world. ASLIA National will be sending out information about the survey to members soon.
- Established the Interpreter Trainers Network by appointing Karen Bontempo as Convenor. She went on to establish steering committee and develop the website, which is being launched this week.
- Coordination of 5th ASLIA National Interpreter Trainers' Workshop. This year we had nine different presentations, including two presentations from American interpreter educators, one of whom is Brian Morrison, the President of the US-based international organisation the Conference of Interpreter Trainers; and a full day workshop from Robyn Dean. Due to demand from previous ITW delegates, this is the first time the event was offered over 2 days, and Karen Bontempo and Marcel Leneham deserve thanks for their work in organising the event.
- The ITN steering committee had a working dinner with Brian Morrison, President of CIT, to discuss the way forward for the ITN.

To engage with and advance the opportunities of under-represented practitioners and communities (i.e., Regional and remote, Deaf Relay interpreters, Deafblind and Indigenous)

- As mentioned, involvement in VRS working group – will directly impact on regional and remote interpreters

- Survey of deaf community and deaf interpreter practitioners regarding next step post-ASLIA/NABS deaf relay interpreter certification project. Proposal to recommend to NAATI that they offer accreditation for deaf interpreters. Survey response unanimous support. So plan to submit proposal for NAATI board meeting in November.

Future plans

- Development of a comprehensive policy and procedures manual will be a priority in 2009, to streamline ASLIA National's operations and provide guidance to the Board and members
- Plans to offer an outstanding ANC2010 conference – watch this space!

In conclusion

It's been another exciting year in the life of ASLIA National.

After 8 years on the executive committee I have decided to step down. It's now time for me to focus on my family and work, and also time for fresh blood in the organisation! ASLIA National is a very different beast from when I first joined, and I am proud to have been involved in the growth of the organisation, which has also been instrumental in the development of the profession. I will miss the committee, and will also miss having my finger on the pulse of new developments; but I have every faith in the new committee and look forward to seeing the organisation continue to grow and lead the way in signed language interpreting. Also like to acknowledge that the longest serving ASLIA National member, Meredith Bartlett, is also stepping down. She has made an enormous contribution to the organisation, and the ASLIA National board wish her well in her future plans.

Jemina Napier
PRESIDENT
23rd August 2009