



**16th Annual General Meeting of ASLIA(National)
Sunday 29 August 2010, Brisbane, Queensland**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The past twelve months has proven to be an exciting and significant period for ASLIA, and it has been an exciting period to be the President of the Association. The major milestones and achievements are listed below:

ASLIA national membership restructure:

- At the AGM in 2009 the groundwork was laid for the national restructure of ASLIA's membership. The restructure has been discussed since 2004, so this initial step marked a big step forward. Based on discussions with the State Presidents (see below), it was decided to finalise the restructure by 30 June 2010, so that the new membership structure would be in place from 1 July 2010. ASLIA(National) worked closely with the State branches in preparations for their General Meetings where members would vote to accept the changes to State Constitutions and adopt the new membership. We are pleased to report that the new structure was unanimously accepted in each state branch. As such, 1 July 2010 is a significant date for ASLIA, it is the date from which ASLIA became one unified Association, rather than a group of separate entities. This will ensure greater efficiencies, collaboration, consistency and streamlining of processes.

Meeting with State Presidents:

- In November 2009 the ASLIA National Executive Committee met for a strategic planning weekend and charted a path for the completion of the restructure. The Executive Committee felt there would be great benefit in meeting with the President of each state branch to get their input to help with moving the restructure forward.

In January 2010 ASLIA(National) convened a meeting with the Presidents from each of the state branches, and a representative from South Australia (because ASLIA(SA) had not yet been re-established). The Presidents provided input and direction on the steps necessary to complete the restructure that would best suit their state branch. They also provided input on the membership categories and fees that should be adopted under the restructure, with unanimous agreement.

This was the first time in the history of the Association that the National Executive has had the opportunity to meet with the State Presidents; all felt it was beneficial and it would be ideal to be able to have this kind of meeting more regularly.

Website:

- The new ASLIA(National) website was launched which enabled people to become members by joining online. The new website also has features which will help with streamlining the membership processes, such as: members can update their contact details directly; it stores invoices for membership payments, so

members can retrieve them at any time; reports can be easily generated for state branches; etc.

“Interpret-ED”:

- Interpret-ED is an ASLIA(National) initiative to provide online professional development. This will ensure that members all across the country (and around the world) will be able to access online training. Participating in the online workshops will accrue points towards the NAATI Revalidation. This year we have filmed six workshops which will be made available one at a time, for a limited period, through the Interpret-ED website. This is an exciting initiative which will ensure that ASLIA members, regardless of location, will be able to access equivalent training opportunities. Furthermore, the workshops will be accessible to Deaf Interpreters, with presentations being either delivered in Auslan, or captioned, if delivered in English.

Translator and Interpreter National Training Package:

- ASLIA was represented in the initial Project Steering Committee and also in the Training Package Finalisation Working Group. This ensured that the Training Package reflected the needs and competencies of Auslan/English and Deaf Interpreters.

Sponsorship and support:

- Throughout the last twelve months, ASLIA(National) has supported research applications and also provided financial assistance for members to present at conferences. This kind of support is important for the Association because it ensures our members are involved in on-going research to enhance best practice, and also ensures our members are able to participate in opportunities that will further their careers and skill development. Members are encouraged to apply for support for research projects using the form available on the ASLIA(National) website. The ASLIA Bursary also has limited funds available to members for professional development opportunities; this application form is also available on the website.

World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI):

- ASLIA(National) continues to work closely with our regional WASLI Board member, George Major. We are very excited to have members of the WASLI Board attending the 2010 ANC in Brisbane.

ANC & ITW 2010:

- Over the past few years we have continued to see the ASLIA National Conference (ANC) grow in scope and reputation. It is truly becoming an international event and is seen as an important event in the calendar for interpreters across Australia and within our region. The increasing scale of the event means that it requires our members to plan the event. Given that we are all volunteers and have busy lives with many competing demands, ASLIA(National) felt it was important to restructure the way in which the ANC is planned. One key change has been to employ an individual to oversee the planning of the ANC and

to take on the bulk of the duties. This meant that the state branch members had a significantly reduced workload, thus reducing the demands on their time – though it still required a significant commitment! Also, an ASLIA(National) convened the conference and the Organising Committee, meaning the ASLIA(National) had more direct input and was able to share the burden of planning the conference and Interpreter Trainers' Workshop (ITW). This is the first year we have followed this structure, and it has been effective, but as always, there is room for improvement. Feedback from this year's Organising Committee will help shape the structure for subsequent years.

In the past the location of the ANC has always relied on states bidding to host the conference. However, the increasing scope of the conference has become a disincentive for state branches because it naturally implies a greater amount of work. The result has been that states are less inclined to bid to host the conference. It is hoped that the new structure will ensure states are more confident with hosting the conference. Also, the new structure allows for members of the Organising Committee to be drawn from the membership across the country, so that it truly becomes a 'national' conference, organised by the national membership. Finally, ASLIA(National) has met with members from the State branches and discussed having a cyclical roster for hosting the ANC. This will remove the obligation for states to bid to host the ANC, and will ensure they have significantly longer lead-in to prepare the ANC. This will assist with securing sponsorship, sourcing venues and promotion of the event; it will also ensure that members can plan ahead for up-coming ANCs.

“Across The Board” magazine:

- The ATB began as an initiative of ASLIA(Victoria), but from ANC2009 ASLIA(National) assumed responsibility for the ATB. As such, the ATB editorial committee is a sub-committee of ASLIA(National), but ASLIA(National) ensures the committee is independent and has editorial control. The ATB is available to members free-of-charge as benefit of membership, as part of the new membership structure.

Creating Opportunities Fund (COF):

- At ANC2009 we hosted a “Skills Auction” to raise funds to continue the work of the COF, to support bringing interpreters from developing countries to Australia to participate in the ANC & ITW. As a result of that auction we raised more than \$8,000. These funds and additional sponsorship have enabled us to bring six delegates from five countries (India, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Fiji and Serbia) to attend the 2010 ANC and ITW. ASLIA(National) is exploring other exciting potential for the COF – so stay tuned for more as they develop.

Meeting of Sign Language Interpreters in Asia:

- A meeting of Sign Language Interpreters in Asia was hosted in Korea in November 2009. Unfortunately ASLIA was unable to send a representative to attend the meeting. However, we prepared a video report to show at the meeting – and this video can be seen on the ASLIA(National) website.

Project Officer:

- ASLIA(National) has continued to employ Kylie Scott as our Project Officer for another year. Kylie is a powerhouse and has been monumentally important in helping ASLIA achieve so many tasks this year.

Advice and Consultation:

- Over the last year ASLIA(National) has provided support to state branches, individual members, stakeholders and other interested people regarding a large number of issues.

ASLIA Executive Committee:

- The ASLIA National Executive Committee has worked hard over the last year, and I want to thank them for their support and efforts. I also want to thank the members of the State Committees. I know the amount of time and personal commitment and energy you all need to contribute to the success of ASLIA. Your contributions ensure the success of the Association, but also the continued growth and strength of the profession in Australia.

Marcel Leneham
President, ASLIA(National)
29 August, 2010