



ASLIA

Australian Sign Language Interpreters' Association

2nd Annual Report 2013





ASLIA Past Presidents (L-R): Karen Bontempo, Mandy Dolejsi, Peter Bonser, Paul Heuston, Marianne Bridge, and Jemina Napier
*Not in attendance - Maree Madden and Marcel Leneham

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Welcome to the 2nd Annual Report

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2nd ASLIA Annual Report. The ASLIA Executive Committee (EC) is delighted to present this Annual Report to members. This 2nd Annual Report is the culmination of much fine work by many members, as directed by the 2012 – 2013 Annual Plan. We continue our new approach to improve governance while also building on the wonderful work that ASLIA has delivered over the past 22 years.

Within this Annual Report, you will find EC and other key member portfolio reports as required by the Annual Plan goals. This Annual Report provides members with a point-in-time view of the progress at the end of the 2012 – 2013 financial year. You will see that the EC of seven members and other key members have worked tirelessly over the last 12 months to advance member interests. Together we have proactively met many challenges and jointly built upon the achievements from year one of the 2011 – 2016 Strategic Plan. Some objectives, however, were not assigned an EC owner in the Annual Plan and will require greater attention in remaining three years of the Strategic Plan.

Together we celebrated 21 years of ASLIA's existence and support to members, the Deaf community and wider Australian community in 2012. It was fitting that this celebratory event took place in Adelaide, the birthplace of ASLIA. "Rediscovering our roots: Shaping our future" was the ASLIA National Conference (ANC) theme which facilitated the walk down memory lane and celebration of the kaleidoscope of personalities and contributions that have helped shape ASLIA. It was also an opportunity to reflect on the privileged role and responsibilities that interpreters have in the lives of Deaf people and the Deaf community. Our practice must also be closely connected to the changing needs and aspirations of Deaf people and the Deaf community. One of the many highlights of our 21st celebrations was the presentation of the inaugural ASLIA Annual Report to members at the 18th Annual General Meeting.

A review of the ASLIA website to improve functionality, develop new features and a better end-to-end website user experience was successfully completed. The new-look ASLIA website went live on 1 April, and has experienced in excess of 40 per cent increase in website traffic and related activity to 30 June 2013.

Special mention must be made about the joint agreement ASLIA entered into with the Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists, Managers Australia (APESMA), and Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators (AUSIT). This groundbreaking work will provide members with one unified voice about issues of mutual interest.

In addition to ASLIA's business-as-usual activities, we secured increased financial sponsorship and funding. On the other hand, we have had to deal with unexpected issues and financial challenges. The EC has continued to strive for prudent financial management and ASLIA's financial viability is still very strong, with a positive cash flow and remains in a good financial position.

I sincerely thank EC and key members for their strong personal commitment to ASLIA; it has directly contributed to ASLIA's success over the last year. In particular, I want to acknowledge Teresa Cumpston Bird for going above and beyond in taking on the dual roles of ASLIA Secretary and Treasurer. The combined contributions of hard-working ASLIA state branch committees and ASLIA representatives on different industry fora reflect much of our shared success and continued growth. On behalf of the EC, thank you to all members and stakeholders for your ongoing support and efforts. ASLIA belongs to all members and needs your tangible support to progress member interests. Our shared future is an exciting and challenging one. If you would like more information about ASLIA, please go to www.aslia.com.au.



Mr Paul Heuston
President



Ms Danielle Don
Vice-President



Ms Teresa Cumpston Bird
Treasurer and Secretary



Ms Kylie Scott
Public Officer



Ms Rhonda Ryde
Committee Member



Mr Neil Ray
Committee Member



Ms Gina Auciello
Committee Member

Strategic Plan 2011 - 2016

ASLIA is a non-profit body and is the national peak organisation representing the needs and interests of Auslan/English Interpreters and Deaf (Relay) Interpreters in Australia.

The Association is comprised of an Executive Committee, a Representative Council and branches in most states/territories.

VISION

To lead and promote sign language interpreting across Australia

MISSION

ASLIA is the peak body representing Auslan/English interpreters through:

1. Partnerships and engagement with ASLIA branches, members, practitioners and stakeholders.
2. Promoting and providing on-going professional development and best practice in Auslan/English interpreting.
3. Providing a professional framework, including a Code of Ethics, policies and guidelines.

ASLIA's goals are to:

1. Strengthen the position of ASLIA as the peak body representing Auslan/English interpreting in Australia.
2. Promote, maintain and enhance collaboration with ASLIA branches, members, practitioners, and stakeholders.
3. Sustain and increase ASLIA's financial position.
4. Provide professional framework for Auslan/English interpreting.
5. Promote best practice in Auslan/English interpreting.
6. Support practitioners from special interest groups.
7. Be an effectively functioning organisation.

ASLIA will accomplish its goals by

Strengthening ASLIA

- Promoting the benefits of membership
- Developing strategic alliances
- Monitoring the impact of external forces on the profession
- Maintaining a relevant website
- Seeking funding
- Exploring opportunities to promote ASLIA at conferences

Collaboration with Stakeholders

- Maintaining partnerships with its state branches, members, practitioners and stakeholders
- Creating Auslan versions of ASLIA policies
- Improving shared information processes between all relevant groups

Creation of a Secure Financial Position

- Review and clarify financial processes and structure
- Provide both advice and consultancy to the industry on a fee-for-service basis
- Coordinate funding requests to national bodies on behalf of state branches

Provision of a Professional Framework

- Provide leadership to state branches
- Engage in clear communication between ASLIA and its state branches
- Provide information about professional practice through clear policies and guidelines

Promotion of Best Practice

- Maintaining the national Interpreter of the Year Awards
- Coordinating the JW Flynn Oration
- Convening the annual ANC and ITNS
- Developing and maintaining Interpret-ED
- Monitoring endorsement process for research and/or undertaking research
- Producing a national calendar of PD events

Support for Special Interest Groups

- Creating opportunities for regional and rural interpreters
- Providing support to Deaf (Relay) Interpreters
- Creating guidelines for working with Deafblind clients
- Developing resources for interpreting with Indigenous Deaf clients
- Creating opportunities for interpreters in developing countries

Effective Functioning

- Ensuring that all governance and compliance requirements are met
- Ensuring that annual plans and budgets are completed and documented
- Ensuring that all policies, procedures and guidelines are current and published



Paul Heuston
President

Portfolio Responsibilities: Membership, Collaboration with Stakeholders, Leadership to State Branches, Professional Development, and Governance

It has been a privilege to serve members in 2012 – 2013. The second year of my Presidency has provided many challenges and rewards. I thank the EC for their ongoing commitment to the members of ASLIA. In particular, I want to recognise my fellow office bearers Danielle Don, Vice President, and Teresa Cumpston Bird, Secretary and Treasurer for their wholehearted support and stellar contributions.

As a team of seven, we have worked hard to achieve many 2012 - 2013 Annual Plan expected outcomes. In the process, we have built deeper relationships with members and key stakeholders, and raised ASLIA's profile within the interpreting industry and community.

As an EC member, I have sole or shared responsibility across goal areas in the 2012 - 2013 Annual Plan. I report on these here:

Membership

Membership continues to be a major focus area for the EC. Following the successful 2009 – 2010 membership restructure, all interpreters are now members of ASLIA rather than ASLIA state branch members. Danielle Don and I share this extensive portfolio.

Our 2012 - 2013 membership drive highlighted the range of standard ASLIA membership benefits and those individually offered by each state branch to members.

I also have promoted ASLIA, and membership benefits to Auslan/English interpreters, Deaf Relay Interpreters (DRIs), community members, government and the interpreting industry including through:

- one-on-one meetings with members, state branches, community and interpreting industry representatives
- correspondence with members-at-large, state branches and industry representatives

- profession and industry meetings
- teleconferences
- President reports for our monthly e-Updates, and
- The AUSIT Biennial Conference in Sydney.

At 30 June 2013, ASLIA had 355 members – a 10 per cent year-on-year increase and a new membership record. This follows from last year's record of 321 members, and is a 30% increase over the last two years. At the AGM, Associate Professor Jemina Napier was awarded Honorary Life Membership in recognition of her significant contribution to the field and ASLIA.

Collaboration with ASLIA branches, members, practitioners and stakeholders

We continue to strengthen member, practitioner and key stakeholder relationships in the Australian interpreting industry. Over the last year highlights include:

- Securing funding from NAATI for state branches to deliver innovative Professional Development (PD) to members in metropolitan and regional areas.
- Signing a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with AUSIT, and another with the Sign Language Interpreters' Association of New Zealand (SLIANZ).
- Revising our 2007 MOU with Deaf Australia.
- Setting up the Deaf Relay Interpreter subcommittee and achieving – in response to our advocacy regarding DRIs – National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) board agreement that they would work with us to develop a NAATI credential for eligible Deaf people to work as interpreters.
- Entered into a dialogue with AUSIT and APESMA in late 2012 to define our common goals and work together to produce a collective agenda.

- On 25 May 2013 we announced a formal working relationship with AUSIT and APESMA, and released the "Common Goals" document, which aims to ensure that practitioners have a consistent voice in their workplaces, in their profession, with other stakeholders, and with governments across the country. Next, we will jointly release a "Pathways" document outlining how we can achieve the "Common Goals".

Coordinate funding requests and deliver Professional Development

This year I coordinated PD funding requests – a task relating to "sustaining and increasing ASLIA's financial position". The objective to "deliver ongoing professional development" is also a key priority for ASLIA. I have compiled funding applications, and in another first, we negotiated and coordinated two national PD funding opportunities for state branches with NABS and NAATI. A total of 279 people came together to learn and share at the nine workshops held in Brisbane, Lismore, Melbourne, Launceston, Adelaide and Perth.

More than 200 delegates from Australia, England, Fiji, New Zealand, and the United States of America enjoyed a thought-provoking and diverse range of presentations at ANC 2012 - "Rediscovering our roots: Shaping our future". ASLIA certainly "rediscovered its roots" by returning to Adelaide, where the Association was founded 21 years ago. "Shaping our future" was explored by our presenters including our keynote presenter, Professor Bencie Woll from University College London. For more information about ANC 2012, please refer to the ANC 2012 Convenor report and ITNS 2012 Chair report on pages 18 - 21.

Due to the Deaf Society of New South Wales hosting of the World Federation of the Deaf 2nd International Conference in October 2013, we announced that a one-day ANC 2013 event will take place in Sydney

after the 2nd International Conference. At the time of writing this report, the Organising Committee is making excellent progress with all portfolios being on track and the sale of 100 maximum registrations.

The development of a national PD calendar and for this to be available on the ASLIA website is another first. Members can now see what PD is available around the country and make arrangements to attend these events. ASLIA also collaborated on research projects. For example, ASLIA is a member of a research consortium led by the Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE with Macquarie University, Vicdeaf, the Deaf Society of New South Wales and Deaf Australia, which was successful in receiving a grant from the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN). The project will research and develop best practice guidelines to give national consistency in how English information on websites is translated into Auslan video clips.

Professional Framework for Auslan/English Interpreting

The ASLIA 2011 – 2016 Strategic Plan was distributed to all state branches and they were encouraged to adapt this when developing their own Strategic Plan. We met with all state branches on Friday, 24 August 2012 and also organised several state branch teleconferences through the year. We have provided advice and tailored leadership to state branches to meet their local needs.

NAATI conducted the "Improvements to NAATI Testing" (INT) national consultation and ASLIA worked closely with AUSIT and APESMA to facilitate ASLIA member participation across the country. ASLIA developed a comprehensive INT Report submission. We watch with interest to see how NAATI will respond to submissions about current NAATI accreditation structure and testing.

Effectively Functioning

The objective to “ensure governance and compliance requirements are met” was achieved via the production of all reporting requirements including the development and presentation of the 2nd Annual Report and audited financial statement. These two documents will be presented to members for their acceptance at the 2013 Annual General Meeting.

As you know, immediately following the last AGM, I led the new EC to develop the 2012 – 2013 Annual Plan. In 2013 – 2014, we will map processes and financial information for the EC to develop and approve an annual budget. Successfully doing so will mean another first for ASLIA.

Governance

The Strategic Plan is a five-year plan and is currently on track. Elsewhere:


- Succession planning is increasingly important. As with previous years, identifying and attracting new EC members continues to be a challenge. The EC is working together to address these issues to ensure the future of ASLIA ongoing operations and viability.

- We are closely monitoring ASLIA's financial affairs. The sole source of regular income that ASLIA relies upon is its 20 per cent share of each membership fee. We continue to operate in a difficult financial environment, and are heavily dependent upon sponsorship and an ANC surplus. ASLIA does not receive any ongoing funding and has no paid staff however in 2012 - 2013, we secured sponsorship for the e-Update, PD, and ANC opportunities.
- ASLIA provides leadership to the state branches in a multitude of different ways both directly to the state branch and via state Representative Council (RC) members. Some examples include timely and regular communications, review and development of national policies, interpret-Ed, coordinating national PD funding opportunities for state branches, provision of policies and advice to state branches and members, amongst other things.
- Insurance such as Directors and Officers Liability Insurance and Public Liability Insurance has been maintained. This, however, is costly and requires close to 50% of ASLIA's regular income derived from membership fees. ASLIA must maintain these two insurance policies for obvious reasons otherwise each EC member becomes personally

and jointly responsible for any insurance claim made against ASLIA.

Other related governance activities include managing internal committee business and identifying specific governance improvements. All seven EC members, OC and sub-committee members continue to use one central information repository, 'Dropbox' at no financial cost. Moreover, ASLIA continues to exclusively use 'Webmail Net Registry' email addresses for all ASLIA business, rather than personal email addresses. Unlike in the past, all ASLIA-related information is now stored, managed, and accessible within one system.

ASLIA continues to develop and strengthen both internal processes and overall governance of its activities to the benefit of all members.



Paul Heuston
President





Danielle Don
Vice-President

Portfolio Responsibilities: Membership, Stakeholder Collaboration, Professional Development, Best Practice Interpreting, ANC 2013 Organising Committee Chair, and Interpreting and Access

Throughout the 2012 – 2013 year, many of my duties have been carried forward from the 2011 – 2012 portfolio responsibilities

I have continued being responsible for strengthening ASLIA's position as the peak body representing Auslan/English interpreting in Australia. I have done this by: initiating a "call to action" to all state branches to reinitiate contact with lapsed members and by promoting the benefits and value of ASLIA membership with the aim of increasing membership; promoting, maintaining and enhancing collaboration with stakeholders (e.g. ASLIA state branches, ASLIA members, interpreting practitioners, etc.); and promoting best practice in Auslan/English interpreting.

I have continued to track and document the use of the ASLIA website in order to identify trends; this information is beneficial to track the number of website views, page views, pages per visit, average minutes per visit and percentage of new visits. The graph on the opposite page is a snapshot of website views from July 2012 – June 2013. In brief, website views traffic remains solid month-on-month with particular peaks coinciding with membership renewal in August 2012 and the revamped ASLIA website in April 2013.

I have maintained ASLIA representation on the NABS Reference Group and attended scheduled meetings via Skype to ensure that ASLIA and the interpreting profession is represented and considered when making any decisions regarding the provision of interpreting services.

In collaboration with another EC member, I have consulted with ASLIA state branches regarding

ongoing PD and day-to-day activities; establishing a calendar on the website that highlights nationwide upcoming events and PD opportunities for 2013. We are continually researching better technological advancements to share and open up PD between states.

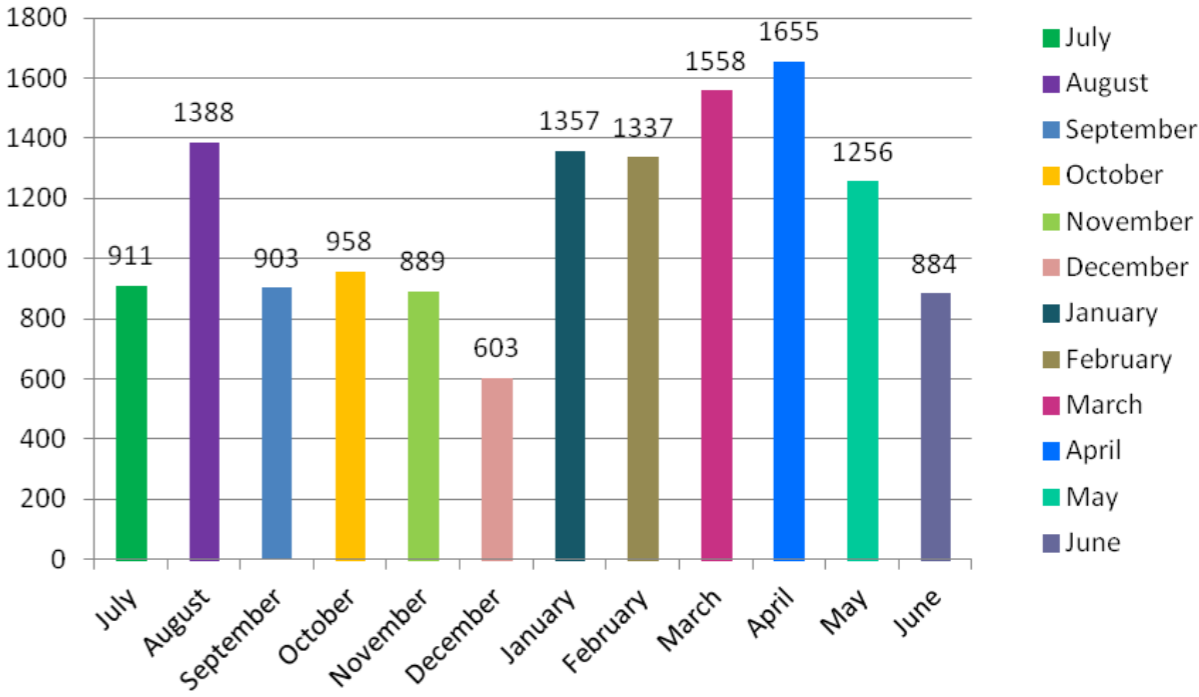
A major piece of work completed at the beginning of 2013 was to incorporate and update recommendations from ANC 2012 into the Transfer of Knowledge document to be referred to throughout planning of ANC 2013. Two additional portfolio responsibilities I have carried include being ASLIA National Conference 2013 Chair, and Interpreting and Access portfolio owner.

Some challenges faced were work/life balance and managing portfolio responsibilities and time constraints without a full EC.

A welcome challenge was taking on the responsibilities of acting President whilst the President was on leave including Chairing an EC meeting, among other responsibilities. It is a challenging yet rewarding experience to work with the ASLIA EC. The hard work contributed by all members specifically ASLIA President Paul Heuston, and Secretary and Treasurer Teresa Cumpston Bird shows commendable passion and an admirable commitment to the interpreting profession.

I will be stepping down as Vice President at the Annual General Meeting to allow another member the opportunity to excel in this role. However I trust that the 2013 - 2014 EC will find the experience just as rewarding. Based on this experience, I would like to make future contributions to ASLIA.

Website Views July 2012 - June 2013





Teresa Cumpston Bird
Secretary and Treasurer

Portfolio Responsibilities: Membership, Administration, Communications, Financial Planning and Management, Policies and Procedures

The 2012 - 2013 year presented a significant challenge for both ASLIA as well as for me, personally. Our hard-working and dedicated Treasurer, Viona Woodroffe, retired from the EC at the AGM in August 2012. This impending loss to our team was not unforeseen. We had known for over a year that Viona was not seeking re-election. Despite an extensive search – including advertising in the e-Update for the eight months leading up to the AGM – we were unsuccessful in identifying a person to step into her shoes. Viona kindly agreed to continue managing the financial transactions and reporting through the completion and closing off of the ANC 2012 accounts, but then it was time for her to enjoy her retirement from the ASLIA EC after five years of committed service.

At this time, the task of managing both the role of Secretary and Treasurer of ASLIA fell to me. It has been a demanding year during which I hope I was able to meet the expectations of the membership. I could not have accomplished as much as I did without the tremendous support of the members of the Executive Committee. In addition, the Representative Council members and the state branch Presidents also assisted me greatly in performing my duties. As well, the continued support from former EC member Karin O'Reilly, former ASLIA Project Officer, Kylie Scott and Viona was invaluable. I am deeply indebted to all of you. Thank you.

Membership, Administration and Communications

During 2012 - 2013 I have undertaken a series of tasks that have hopefully benefited the state branch executive committees as well as our members and supporters. I worked closely with Kate Leibick as she updated the ASLIA website's member access and membership renewal outputs as well as updating the website on many other levels. This has made the work as Administrator of the site and tasks that I undertake much easier as well as improving usability for our state branches and members.

Examples of this include:

- the capacity for state branches to log onto the site and collect their member data; previously, I generated fortnightly reports which were distributed to state branches;
- an automated renewal function for all memberships;
- an interactive professional development calendar; and
- the capacity for an end user to search for ASLIA members by name, state and/or membership type.

In addition, I have continued to work closely with Ramtin Sohrabian of RamtinWorld who has also been an enormous resource and support of ASLIA through his management of both the ASLIA and ANC websites as well as our related IT needs. I wish to sincerely thank both Kate and Ramtin for all of the work that they have undertaken for ASLIA throughout the year; their respective efforts have greatly enhanced both websites and their willingness to give much of their time, pro bono, must be acknowledged and is greatly appreciated.

Other tasks that I have managed include a wide range of secretarial tasks to support EC members, state branches and ASLIA members. These have included:

- membership management from annual payment to activation to renewal;
- enquiries;
- facilitation of regular meetings with state branch Presidents and RC members with the aim of assisting with planning of professional development;
- distribution of member and supporter communications including the e-Update;
- attendance at meetings with a number of ASLIA stakeholders; and
- development and management of systems.

Financial Planning and Management

It was decided to transition ASLIA to the use of QuickBooks accounting software for recording and reporting all of the Association's financial transactions. This required that I first develop a working knowledge of QuickBooks and then the entry of data for the financial year, 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013. This work was completed in May 2013 and QuickBooks is now fully operational.

ASLIA has worked hard in an attempt to record a surplus for the 2012 – 2013 financial year. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, we will record a deficit for the period. At the time of writing, ASLIA's financial records have yet to be audited; however, it is clear there will be a deficit. It is important to understand the difference between a financial profit/loss for a single operating period (i.e. the financial year) and the overall financial position of the Association, including cash flow. In this respect, ASLIA is managing well and is not currently at risk of becoming insolvent. However, continued prudent financial management is required to sustain our long-term financial position.

I have undertaken to do my best to enhance ASLIA's financial capacity and will be implementing a number of measures that I hope will assist this. This will include an annual projected budget and tracking against it. This will assist the entire EC to know, at any given point in time, its actual financial position.

Policies and Procedures

It is this area of my workflows that has again suffered in 2012 - 2013, not because it is unimportant but because there are simply not enough hours in a given week to adequately address it. This has been further compromised and impacted upon as I undertook the dual role of Secretary and Treasurer.

Existing policies have been audited and those requiring review have been identified. Further, additional areas requiring policies and/or guidelines have been identified. In order to endeavour to

progress this work in a timely manner, a number of ASLIA members have devoted their time, expertise and energy to assisting ASLIA to undertake this body of work. These people include Mark Quinn, Dr Maree Madden, Dani Fried, and Dr Jemina Napier.

In addition, a very significant body of work into the recognition by NAATI of Deaf Relay Interpreters has been led by Lori Whynot and also includes the efforts of Stephanie Linder, Della Goswell, Ryan Gook, Robyn Tsapazi, Patricia Levitzke Gray, Michaela Sloan, Stephen Nicholson and Karen Bontempo.

Other areas where members have contributed significantly to work that supports ASLIA's aims and policies include the Creating Opportunities Fund (COF) and the NAATI Professional Reference Group (PRG). Assisting the ASLIA EC on these were: Anna Vost (COF), Serryn Bryant (COF), Sheena Walters (COF), Pip Cody (NAATI PRG) and Sandra Leane (NAATI PRG).

Both ASLIA and I greatly appreciate the generosity of these members. Without them, we would be unable to progress these areas of importance.

As noted, during this financial year, I have held the roles of both Secretary and Treasurer. This is not sustainable. After careful consideration of the needs of ASLIA as well as the various skill sets that I hold, I will continue on in the final year of my current term as the ASLIA Treasurer, with ASLIA seeking to appoint a new Secretary.

In closing, I did acknowledge above the tremendous support provided to me by all of the ASLIA EC; however, I cannot complete my report without singling out our President, Paul Heuston, for special mention. His unending willingness to go the extra mile for not just me, but for all ASLIA members, has meant that he has been a rock for me throughout the year.



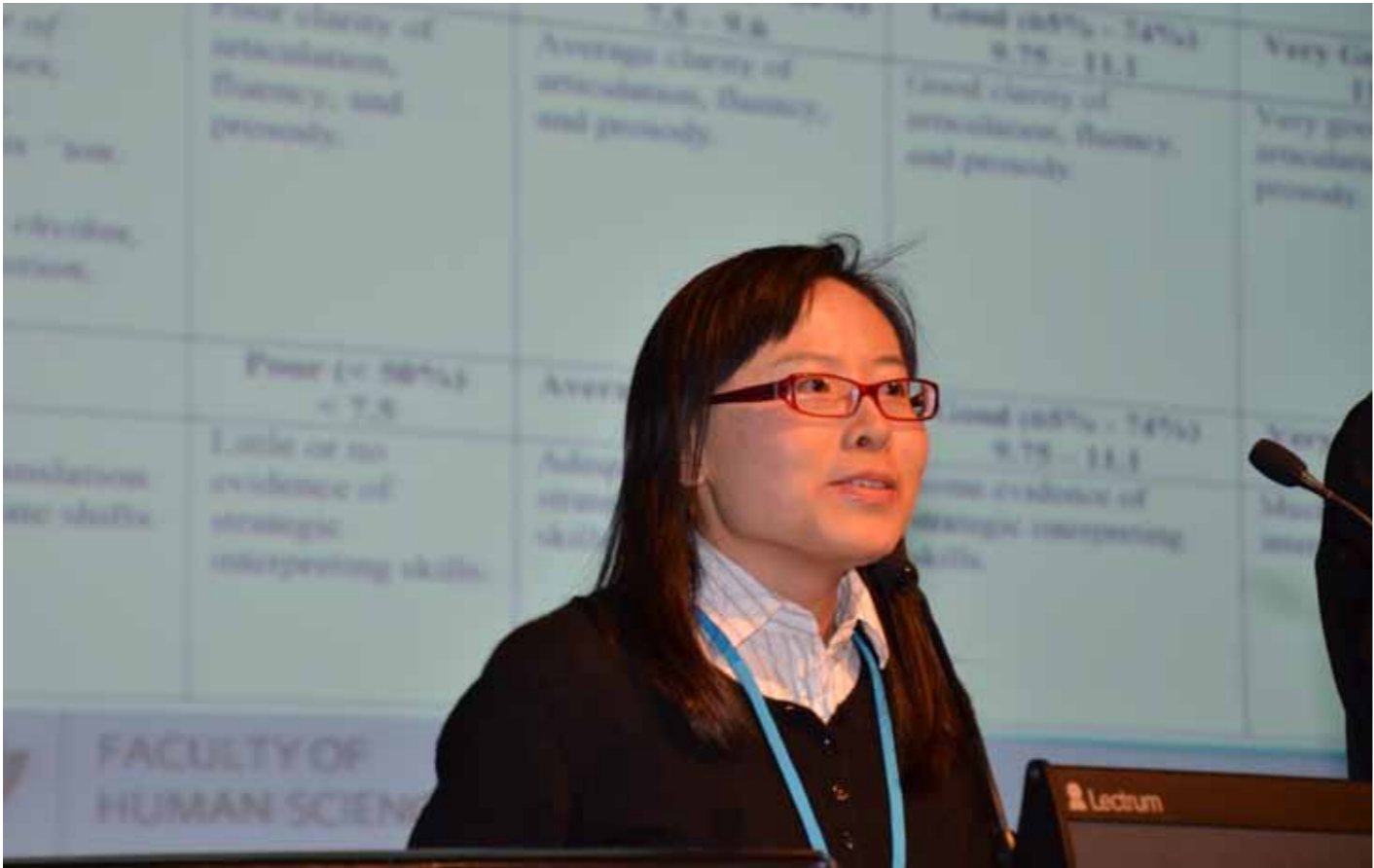
Kylie Scott
Public Officer

Portfolio Responsibilities: Compliance with the NSW Incorporations Act

Throughout 2012 - 2013 I have been responsible to ensure that ASLIA complies with the requirements of the New South Wales Associations Incorporations Act 2009, as this is the state in which ASLIA is incorporated. This requires that I remain abreast of compliance requirements under the Act as well as maintain communications with the NSW Department of Fair Trading. Obligations under the Act include submitting the Association's financial statement within 28 days of the Annual General Meeting and ensuring the retention of all relevant documentation regarding membership and constitutional matters.

ASLIA did meet the requisite reporting requirements in relation to the change of Public Officer, the amendments made to the ASLIA Constitution at the 2012 AGM as well as the necessary financial records for 2011 - 2012 within the timeframe specified by the legislation.

However, it became evident that ASLIA had not done similarly for the reporting years of 2009 - 2010 and 2010 - 2011. This situation was rectified and steps taken to ensure that ASLIA will not be non-compliant with the Act in the future.



Rhonda Ryde
Committee Member

Portfolio Responsibilities: Member and Supporter Communications - ASLIA e-Update

Throughout the 2012 - 2013 year, I have been responsible for producing the monthly e-Update, which engages with and connects members. With 11 issues each year, members and supporters have been able to keep abreast of what has been happening within ASLIA, state branches, as well as interesting and relevant information for the wider interpreting and Deaf communities.

Additionally, I was privileged to be the ASLIA representative at The Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration Incorporated (AIJA) Workshop on Interpreters, where I was able to provide input into the discussion around Professor Sandra Hale's presentation entitled: "Towards a national protocol for interpreters working in courts and tribunals."

Originally, I was standing down as a committee member at the end of the 2011 - 2012 year. However, with a need for support and committee members, I decided to continue on the Executive Committee for another 12 months. This is a decision I have not regretted, as the past year has proved to be both rewarding and enjoyable. Regrettably, due to family commitments, I will not be standing for a position on the EC in the upcoming year. This is a decision I have not taken lightly as I acknowledge the importance of the work carried out by the entire EC.

Serving on the Committee has been an amazing experience and one that I have thoroughly enjoyed. I have learnt much in the past two years and I feel privileged to be part of such a hard working and knowledgeable group of interpreters. I would like to take this opportunity to give special thanks to Paul Heuston and Teresa Cumpston Bird. I am deeply grateful for their tireless patience, remarkable commitment and endless support. I wish the Executive Committee all the best for the 2013 - 2014 year.





Neil Ray
Committee Member

Portfolio Responsibilities: ASLIA Website and Interpreter Training

Within my portfolio the year has been one of review and project exploration. As this is my first year serving on the EC, a steep learning curve has been the main challenge. Outside of ASLIA, my interests and skills lie in education and training as well as technical aspects such as video production and web programming.

I am able to report that during the year since August 2012, the following has been accomplished:

- approval and commencement on a new module for the Interpret-Ed program and
- access to and understanding of the ASLIA website administration.

Further, I would highlight that I am continuing to work on the following matters and project areas:

- development of additional modules for the Interpret-Ed program and
- continuing to investigate and seek new funding opportunities for further projects.

Providing significant challenges for me within my portfolio this year were the following areas:

- understanding the complexity of the organisation and its work towards the profession of interpreting and
- managing the degree of consultation required for successful implementation of initiatives for members.

I commit to continuing to work on these important areas with the hope that by June 2014 the following will have been accomplished:

- successful deployment and uptake of a new Interpret-Ed module;
- migration of further responsibilities in relation to the ASLIA website; and
- new funding for projects achieved.

Occupying a seat on the ASLIA EC has been an interesting and challenging experience. A small number of people achieve an enormous amount of work with little to no resources. Our growth of membership base is evidence that our work is valued and important. However, ASLIA will always require the support of its members to be a fruitful and relevant organisation.



Gina Auciello
Committee Member

Portfolio Responsibilities: Creating Opportunities Fund, Interpreter of the Year Awards, JW Flynn Oration

Since my term on the ASLIA Executive Committee commenced in November 2012, I have been involved in many varied tasks. At the start of 2013, a new Creating Opportunities Fund sub-committee was formed and we were ready to get started onto the next phase of the ASLIA COF initiative, which is to send an interpreter trainer to deliver professional development to colleagues in the Australasia and Oceania region. Fiji was chosen because they have a cohort of 30 interpreters who are endeavouring to establish an Interpreter Association and to one day partake in a Diploma of Interpreting course.

The COF sub-committee have been busy planning training requirements for 2014 in Fiji and at the same time coordinating fundraising events to support the funding for this training initiative. Fundraising will include a Raffle at the 2013 ASLIA National Conference and a special Trivia Night to be held in Melbourne in early 2014. I would like to acknowledge the commitment and hard work by the sub-committee members; Anna Vost, Serryn Bryant and Sheena Walters. As part of my role with ASLIA, I was also able to participate in the WASLI Australasia and Oceania regional meetings.

This year, the ASLIA state Interpreter of the Year Awards was hosted in Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales. This is a major event that brings together the interpreting profession, Deaf community

and organisations to recognise the dedication and achievements of our professional colleagues. My responsibility was to ensure that the Awards Guidelines were consistently applied throughout the states and to assist with any queries to make sure this happened. I am now engaged in the planning of the ASLIA National Interpreter of the Year Award process, with the announcement to be made at the ASLIA National Conference in October.

Along with the Interpreter of the Year, the JW Flynn Oration is a very special part of the ASLIA National Conference. With the Call for Nominations and the assessment process finalised, Carla Anderson has been chosen as our Orator for 2013. She is a very well respected and influential practitioner, educator and consumer of interpreting services.

The most significant challenge I have experienced this year has been to manage the work flow, whilst I am still studying at Macquarie University and juggling family commitments. However, I am committed to ASLIA and seeing that the goals that have been set in place for the portfolios that I am responsible for, are seen to their fruition. I feel very privileged to work with a team of dedicated, hardworking committee members who are determined to advance our profession locally and to support our colleagues in nations that do not enjoy the same working conditions that we do here in Australia.





Karin O'Reilly
ASLIA National Conference 2012 Convenor

ASLIA National Conference 2012 Convenor Report

It is with great pleasure that I write this report recapping what was the ASLIA National Conference "Shaping our Future" in "Radelaide" aka Adelaide, August 2012 co-hosted with the South Australian Branch of ASLIA.

Organising Committee

I would like to recognise the fabulous Organising Committee that worked their butts off to deliver yet another fantastic event. As we know, Adelaide has one of the smallest ASLIA branches in Australia yet they certainly know how to make light work with very few hands! It cannot be underestimated just how much work goes into running an ASLIA National Conference. In 2012 we had OC members in three states (Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia) and all meetings were convened through Skype once every month, and then fortnightly closer to the ANC. OC members each had individual portfolio areas and were required to submit a progress report prior to each meeting.

My immense thanks must start with the team who were an absolute delight to work with: OC Chair - Kylie Scott, ITN Symposium Chair - Karen Bontempo, Audio Visual - Chelsea Turner, Events - Angela Dillon, Interpreting - Gerry Shearim, Publications - Amber Venner, Sponsorship - Amy Blaylock, Venue - De Brown, and Volunteers – Adrienne White.

Each portfolio coordinator was guided by the detailed project plan, which was developed by the ANC Chair, with feedback from the Convenor. The Chair met with each portfolio coordinator individually to ensure they understood their role and tasks and kept up regular email communications with the OC in-between meetings. The report template asked them to provide information in three categories: 1) tasks that had been completed since the last meeting; 2) pending tasks; and, 3) matters for discussion at the teleconference. Adopting this reporting format ensured that all OC members were aware of decisions being made and the meeting agendas could be clearly structured prior to the meetings. Kylie Scott, ANC 2012 Chair, has since updated the project plan for ANC 2013 based on reflection and

feedback from the OC team this year. We again used Dropbox for consolidating and keeping all the planning materials for the OC, and this worked very well, particularly for the leadership team, so we could easily be across all areas.

Conference Programme

Friday night commenced with the JW Flynn Oration presented by local interpreting legend Angela Dillon. Angela provided a poignant trip down memory lane and a very brave insight into her own very personal struggle with a repetitive strain injury. Friday night also saw the ASLIA Interpreter of the Year award presented to Anna Nardi. Congratulations to both of you – these are honours that were very much deserved.

I am sure everyone would agree that Professor Bencie Woll delivered two remarkable keynote presentations entitled "The Signing Brain" and "Communication and interpreting with deaf linguistic isolates".

The Saturday night gala dinner was both a mix of nostalgia in the form of the past President's parade and sadness with former ASLIA President and researcher extraordinaire Jemina Napier recognised and farewelled. Jemina, her husband Andy Carmichael and their daughter Tilda decided to up stumps and relocate to Scotland where Jemina has since taken on the impressive role of Chair in Intercultural Communications/Professor of Intercultural Communication at the School of Management & Languages; Department of Languages & Inter Studies at Heriot-Watt University. Jemina was given an emotional sign-song tribute from Gerry Shearim and Karen Bontempo (ably standing in for Della Goswell who was unable to attend). There didn't seem to be a dry eye in the house and Jemina was certainly very touched. At the next day's AGM, Jemina was presented with a Life Membership of ASLIA in recognition of the amazing contribution she has made not only to our profession in Australia but in the advancement of sign language interpreting research. I certainly wish her and her family all the very best for this next chapter in their lives.

We once again held a Creating Opportunities Fund Auction and we thank all the donators for once again helping ASLIA raise funds to assist delegates from developing nations attend the ANC and to support colleagues in our region.

Over 50 per cent of the ASLIA membership made the decision to attend ANC, to enjoy the learning and networking opportunities, and be part of ASLIA's 21st celebrations. We also had strong support from members of the Deaf community and interpreting industry representatives.

I would also like to thank the wonderful team of interpreters who worked tirelessly and professionally throughout the weekend: Mark Cave, Ben Souter, Kirri Dangerfield, Tanya Miller, Julie Judd and Mandy Dolejsi as well as tactile interpreters Leanne Beer, Sandra Leane and Meredith Bartlett. Also, thanks to Mike Levett and his team for once again doing a tremendous job capturing the event on film!

We are very grateful to the many amazing sponsors of ANC without whom we could not hold the conference. Special thanks go to FaHCSIA and the two major sponsors: ACE and NABS. One of the principal unsponsored costs for the conference is AV. I recall fondly how I begged and borrowed AV equipment for the Cairns Winter School in 2005 and only one person (Marcel Leneham) was responsible for ensuring all the AV went to plan. How things have

changed! This year it cost the OC \$11,700 for AV equipment and an operator yet the benefit of having a professional AV operator definitely outweighs the cost, so this would be recommended to continue and that specific sponsorship for AV is investigated. We were very fortunate to have sponsorship from Communication Republic this year for filming the on-stage Auslan user (mostly the interpreter) and project them up on to two screens, making the conference much more accessible for all delegates.

In addition I would also like to recognise the many volunteers who assisted with the fabulously smooth running of the event and the terrific support that the ASLIA Executive Committee provided to our OC.

Finally no ANC would be as efficacious without the stupendous presenters and participants who make the journey from places far and wide both nationally and internationally to attend the ANC.

Conclusion

This will be my last ANC report and I humbly thank the ASLIA Executive Committee for once again entrusting in me the task of coordinating such an important event for Australian interpreters. I have been very fortunate to observe how the ANC has matured from its humble Winter School roots to the amazing conference it is today. I wish the 2013 OC all the very best for this year's ANC.





Dr Karen Bontempo

Interpreter Trainers' Network Convenor
Interpreter Trainers' Network Symposium 2012 Chair

Interpreter Trainers' Network Symposium 2012 Chair Report

The Interpreter Trainers' Network (ITN) is aimed at meeting the needs and interests of sign language interpreter educators, mentors and trainers, and is aligned with ASLIA. The ITN provides interpreter trainers with formal and informal opportunities for collegial support. ITN membership is open to casual, part-time and full-time interpreter educators involved in courses offered through registered training organisations (RTOs), TAFE colleges (or equivalent) and universities. In addition, individuals involved with developing and delivering professional development and training opportunities for interpreters; and in providing mentoring to colleagues, are also welcome to apply for membership of the ITN group.

History

The ITN was established in 2009 as an initiative of Karen Bontempo, Jemina Napier, Marcel Leneham and the Executive Committee of ASLIA. The concept of an ITN had been discussed for several years at the ASLIA National Interpreter Trainers' Workshops (ITW) when educators gathered annually for training opportunities as educators. At the ITW in 2008 it was agreed to press ahead in establishing a formal Network.

Purpose of the ITN

- To be a representative network, connecting interpreter educators, trainers and mentors from across Australia, and overseas;
- To act as a "clearing house" for samples of assessment tools, teaching resources, relevant materials and websites, new publications and general information that can be shared amongst trainers;

-To promote more standardised interpreter education and training opportunities across Australia; and

-To contribute and participate in key identified projects which will assist in improving interpreter training and service delivery across Australia and to be of service to other nations, sister associations, and to WASLI where possible and appropriate.

Annual Symposium

A key aspect to the work of the ITN in terms of sharing knowledge and information has been the organisation of an annual gathering of interpreter educators, trainers and mentors. In recent years, the Interpreter Trainers' Network Symposium (ITNS) has blossomed into a comprehensive and appealing annual two-day symposium offering an array of presentations addressing a number of cutting-edge topics, well-suited to interpreter educators, trainers and mentors. The event has grown considerably from the early days of the one-day ITW event tacked onto the ASLIA National Conference. Now the symposium stands alone as an important date in the calendar of trainers, educators and mentors of interpreters, but is still aligned with the ANC for many logistical and practical reasons.

The ITNS is the only regular opportunity available in the southern hemisphere for interpreter educators, mentors and trainers to come together and share teaching resources and strategies, discuss developments in the field, and network with national and international peers.

Summary of the 2012 ITNS

The 8th ASLIA ITNS was held at the Intercontinental Hotel in Adelaide from 27-28 August, 2012. As well as a number of presentations from local leaders in interpreter education and training, we also had several esteemed international presenters, including our international keynote, Professor Bencie Woll of University College London, UK. Dr Suzanne Ehrlich of the University of Cincinnati, USA, and Debbie Olsen of La Guardia Community College in New York City, USA rounded out our international presenting contingent. Australian presenters included Dr Jemina Napier, Julie Judd, Therese Lewis, Sheena Walters, Dr Meredith Bartlett, Sandi Leane, Ben Souter, Pip Cody, and Karen Bontempo. We had a number of "new faces" as presenters in 2012, as well as a different composition of delegates compared to past events, with a number of novice trainers and mentors in attendance this year.

States represented by the various presenters included Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia, and NSW. The topics covered by presenters were interesting and relevant to delegates and included aptitude testing; the use of protocols for discussions both in online and face to face settings; discourse analysis; mentoring educational interpreters; demand-control schema; interpreter training overseas; the use of iPads in class; building resilience and positive coping strategies in students; and the new TAFE training package for interpreter education.

A total of 25 delegates registered (this figure does not include the interpreting team) to attend the ITNS over the two-day period, hailing from four

different countries, including Australia (participants from WA, SA, Vic, NSW, and Qld); UK; USA; and Fiji. With 100% of delegates rating the overall ITNS program as "excellent", it is thrilling to note how well received ITNS 2012 was in Adelaide. The venue was good, the catering was outstanding, the set up of the room worked well, the program and presenters were excellent, the interpreting team was fabulous, and the atmosphere in general was friendly and warm amongst delegates.

On a personal note, I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the support of the ANC Organising Committee in assisting me with aspects of planning the ITNS this year. In addition, I acknowledge the support of the steering committee of the ITN in regard to helping with tasks 'on the ground' at the ITNS, such as chairing sessions. I have been involved in convening seven ITW/ITNS events (out of eight possible ITW/ITNS events), and I have played a role in chairing, sitting on, or supporting several ANC OC's, and every year I feel energised and enthused by my participation in these events, and gratified and humbled by the work of my fellow colleagues in contributing to the success of these important gatherings.

For the first time in a number of years, the ITNS is taking a hiatus in 2013. The next ITNS will take place in Perth, Western Australia, in 2014 – I hope you will join us!

For more information regarding the work of the Interpreter Trainers' Network, please visit the ITN website: <http://itn.aslia.com.au>



Sheena Walters

World Association of Sign Language Interpreters -
Australasia and Oceania
Representative Report

The year 2012 - 2013 has been an interesting and dynamic time for WASLI Australasia and Oceania. Sheena Walters and Anna Vost have decided to share the role as WASLI Australasia and Oceania representative commencing 1 July 2013. Sheena will continue her work with the WASLI translation team and liaise with World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) Oceania with their research projects and strategic planning. Anna will coordinate WASLI Oceania regional meetings, liaise with ASLIA and SLIANZ and manage email communications. Both representatives feel that this will allow them to dedicate sufficient time to the interpreters in this region.

As of 1 January 2013, the WFD has redefined its secretariats to include Oceania, as the 8th regional secretariat, distinct from Asia-Pacific. This re-definition acknowledges the social, linguistic and cultural distinctions between the regions of Asia and Oceania and means greater alignment with the WASLI region. We are continuing with the four year strategic plan which includes working with WFD Oceania on seeking funding for a joint development project comprising of needs analyses to be conducted in the region and developing a long term training plan for targeted areas in the region. Sheena has continued to work with Philip Waters, representing WFD Oceania, during the year on this.

The strategic plan also includes continuing to foster inter-country communication between interpreters in the region. One of the original WASLI goals for the period was to see greater collaboration between ASLIA and SLIANZ and this year it was exciting to see that an MOU was signed between the two organisations in December 2012.

We are continuing to work in close collaboration with the ASLIA's COF. Last year we saw a workshop for three representatives from Fiji prior to ANC in Adelaide and our thanks go to Rachel McKee for volunteering her time. Details about the current focus are included in the report from Gina Auciello.

Additionally, the Fiji Sign Language Interpreters Committee (FJSL Interpreters Committee) has approached AusAID to propose a Diploma of Interpreting to be run at a local training institution. This diploma course would build the capacity of interpreters throughout the region and is strongly supported by the Fiji Association of the Deaf, the only Deaf association in the Pacific.

Internationally, WASLI is continuing preparations for the 2015 WASLI Conference and during the year have updated their membership fees. The WASLI Facebook page is a good place to check for updates from our interpreting colleagues throughout the world.

This year the regional interpreters working group welcomed the recent addition of Helen Tui from Samoa and Gina Auciello from ASLIA, replacing Michelle Hunwick, and joining Angela Murray (SLIANZ), Gael Seru (Fiji) and Mary Maneka (Solomon Islands). The group met several times during the year to share information and discuss the goals defined in our strategic plan to keep our work relevant. We all look forward to our next regional meeting scheduled for July 2013.

We would like to thank the below members who generously share their time, skills and experience to ably represent ASLIA and member issues in a range of meetings and forums.

ASLIA Executive Committee: Paul Heuston (President), Danielle Don (Vice President), Teresa Cumpston Bird (Secretary and Treasurer), Kylie Scott (Public Officer), Gina Auciello, Neil Ray, and Rhonda Ryde

ASLIA Representative Council – Sharon Hislop (New South Wales), Ruth Sullivan (Queensland), Amy Blaylock (South Australia), Debbie Draeger (Tasmania), Cara Due (Victoria), and Anne Burrough (Western Australia)

Australian Federation of Deaf Societies/ASLIA – Paul Heuston

ANC 2012 Organising Committee – Karin O'Reilly (Convenor), Kylie Scott (ANC Chair), Karen Bontempo (ITNS Chair), Amy Blaylock, De Brown, Angela Dillon, Gerry Shearim, Chelsea Turner, Amber Venner, Adrienne White, and Viona Woodroffe

ANC 2013 Organising Committee – Paul Heuston (Convenor), Danielle Don (ANC Chair), Gina Auciello, Teresa Cumpston Bird, Melinda Dagger, Sandra Remedio, Joe Sabolcec, and Daryl Seibright

AUSIT/ASLIA – Paul Heuston and Teresa Cumpston Bird

AUSIT/APESMA/ASLIA – Paul Heuston

Creating Opportunities Fund sub-committee – Gina Auciello (Chair), Serryn Bryant, Sheena Walters, and Anna Vost

Deaf Relay Interpreters sub-committee – Lori Whynt (Chair), Karen Bontempo, Ryan Gook, Della Goswell, Patricia Levitzke Gray, Stephanie Linder, Stephen Nicholson, Michaela Sloan, and Robyn Tsapazi

Deaf Australia/ASLIA – Paul Heuston and Teresa Cumpston Bird

Evidence-based Auslan Guidelines and Evaluation Rubrics for the Translation of Website Information (EAGER) Project Steering Committee – Paul Heuston

Deaf Jurors Project Advisory Group – Merie Spring

Interpreter Trainers' Network sub-committee – Karen Bontempo (Convenor), Amanda Dolejsi, Della Goswell, Sandra Leane, Marcel Leneham, Patricia Levitzke-Gray, Maree Madden, Jemina Napier, and Merie Spring

National Auslan Interpreter Booking and Payment Service Reference Group – Danielle Don

NAATI Professional Reference Group – Pip Cody and Sandra Leane

SLIANZ/ASLIA – Paul Heuston and Teresa Cumpston Bird

WASLI Australasia and Oceania Region Representative – Sheena Walters

WASLI Australasia and Oceania Regional Interpreters Working Group – Sheena Walters (Chair), Gina Auciello, and Anna Vost



Life Members

Meredith Bartlett
Harry Blackmore
Teresa Cumpston Bird
John Flynn
Sandi Leane
John Levitzke
Jemina Napier
Leanne Potter
Steve Robinson

Members

Rodney Adams
Laura Alcoba
Paula Ambrose
Chloe Amphlett
Carla Anderson
Susie Armillei
Meaghan Arundell
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