



po box 3091 sangster place wanniassa act 2903
info@aslia.com.au www.aslia.com.au

12th Annual General Meeting of ASLIA National
19 August 2006
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This summary report of the activities of ASLIA National over the past 12 months is delivered on behalf of the team of dedicated members of the ASLIA National executive and committee who commit their time, energy and expertise in a purely voluntary capacity, in the interests of furthering and developing the sign language interpreting profession. The team is comprised as follows:-

President – Karen Bontempo
Vice President – Jemina Napier
Treasurer – Amanda Dolejsi
Secretary – Meredith Bartlett
Minutes Secretary & Public Officer – Marcel Leneham
Committee member – Karin Fayd'herbe
Committee member – Heather Loades
Additional personnel - paid contractual appointment for specific purpose:
"Deaf Relay Interpreter Certification" Project Officer – Della Goswell

"Associate yourself with people of good quality if you esteem your own reputation; for 'tis better to be alone than in bad company." ~ [George Washington](#)

The fore-mentioned quote could not be more accurate when applied to the diligent and capable current ASLIA National team. This past year we have worked cohesively as a team, and I personally appreciate and value the support they have offered me in this past year. All have been so giving of their time and energy, when they are all such busy, in demand people. We have dreamed so much and achieved so much this year. We have had the fortunate combination of quality people, comprehensive knowledge, outstanding skills and above all, the willingness to share this with others. It's been a good year, thanks to the talent and effort of our team. A consistent theme over the past 12 months for all of us has been one of "setting high expectations" in our conduct and actions within ASLIA National, and in the way we are perceived. We hope we have in fact achieved that in the eyes of members this past year.

Current goals and objectives

A strategic plan review was undertaken earlier this year, to set business directions for ASLIA National to July 2007. This was a detailed process, resulting in a new vision (printed at base of letterhead) and mission, as well as the development and implementation of new and innovative strategies to meet our previously agreed upon organisational goals and objectives.

A complete strategic plan document is available for perusal, however our key goals and objectives are noted here:-

GOAL 1. – UNITY AND CLARITY

Objectives

- 1.1 To create a strong and unified organisation
- 1.2 To hold regular strategic planning workshops
- 1.3 To improve the communication mechanisms between state branches and national executive

GOAL 2. – KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE

Objectives

- 2.1 To strive for interpreting excellence
- 2.2. To support research
- 2.3 To foster the sharing of knowledge and theoretical debate in the field

GOAL 3. – PROFESSIONALISM AND BEST PRACTICE

Objectives

- 3.1 To enhance the image and reputation of ASLIA
- 3.2 To increase financial independence and viability

Summary of major accomplishments and initiatives

Publications – ASLIA National members submitted an article to VIEWS, the US based RID publication. The submission was featured as a front page article on the sign language interpreting scene in Australia.

The detailed WASLI country report presented at the WASLI conference in South Africa established a format later adopted by WASLI for reporting requirements.

WASLI – ASLIA National successfully nominated to represent the Oceania Region and has provided effective liaison and information exchange in the area to date.

Policies – New policies and guidelines were developed for interpreting in legal settings; pro-bono interpreting; and the production of specific forms for executive, committee, and council representatives, in relation to confidentiality, code of conduct, and conflict of interest declarations.

JW Flynn Oration – Specific guidelines on the criteria to be applied in selecting JW Flynn Orators were developed, with a record noted of Orators to date.

Branding – Position paper developed, with action taken to maximise the potential for ASLIA to be more effectively marketed as a recognisable entity through our brand and function. Business cards, letterhead, position badges and banner designed and printed in line with new brand/corporate image.

Website – Further to re-branding, and in recognition of the website as a key marketing tool and information/education resource for any organisation, a new interactive site has been developed. The new site is contemporary, fresh and functional, with many members-only benefits and more suitable ISP hosting services.

Interpreter Trainers' Workshop – Coordinated the 2nd ASLIA National Interpreter Trainers Workshop in Perth, which was attended by 23 sign language interpreter educators from across the nation and overseas.

Winterschool – Final report from Cairns 2005 drafted and distributed. Training resources from Cairns (DVD series and papers from presenters) made available online for members. Representation on the Organising Committee for WS2006.

Deaf Relay Interpreter Certification Project – A project auspiced by ASLIA and funded by NABS to define and document the competencies required by Deaf Relay Interpreters and to establish a testing and certification process for candidates. The ultimate purpose of certification at this stage is to enable certified Relays to work in NABS related medical settings.

Administrative matters

- Working with the National Representative Council to improve flow of communication and information exchange to and from the wider membership
- Offering support to state branches (provision of templates and initiatives such as the St Jerome “Interpreter of the Year” Awards; branding across the nation and assistance with corporate design and printing at greatly discounted cost; encouragement to adopt national policies and constitution by state branches as desired)
- Working with other strategic partners to support Northern Territory based Auslan interpreters
- Regular teleconferences, email exchanges and online meeting for national executive and committee. Face to face meetings when possible and appropriate
- Production and distribution of a national newsletter every 2 months, incorporating state news
- Timely responses to email queries and correspondence as presented to ASLIA National
- Provision of national and international advice on Auslan interpreting matters, and systemic/individual advocacy as required
- Representation of ASLIA National at various meetings and forums
- Specific purpose discussions and regular liaison with AAD, AFDS, Deafness Forum, NAATI, NABS, AUSIT, WAITI, SLIANZ and WASLI

Research activities

- Development of extensive research catalogues in interpreting topic specific areas
- Macquarie University/ASLIA/AUSIT/AFDS research project, surveying the breadth of the T & I profession – pending confirmation
- Provision of support and information to research students, and circulation of information about various research projects and activities where applicable

Finances and funding

- Development of a bursary policy, an agreed annual sum, and an application form to seek national financial assistance
- Detailed budgets drafted for various projects and operational expenses
- An investment strategy has been ratified for 2006/2007 so we will invest some capital from our previous savings, and look at operational costs coming out of the interest
- We are actively seeking to increase the capacity of ASLIA National through various fiscal development strategies
- Management of the largest financial accounts and complexity of transactions known to ASLIA to date
- The financial support of NABS in regard to the DRIC Project is gratefully acknowledged

- Sponsors of WS2005 are sincerely thanked; as are the supporters of WS2006, who have undoubtedly enabled costs to be subsidised for delegates, bearing in mind the working conditions and salary of most sign language interpreting practitioners.

Future plans

Areas needing development or enhancement in the coming year, emphasised here as well as in the stipulated business directions set down in our strategic plan, include, but are not limited to:-

- Development of an Interpreter Trainers Network and a position paper on best practice in interpreter education, under the auspices of ASLIA National. Greater input into interpreter education in Australia is sought, as a key stakeholder in this process.
- Finalising a transfer of knowledge document for future WS Organising Committees to use as a guideline for event development and management on all levels. Support offered to the Adelaide based WS2007 team.
- Attention to national working conditions, compulsory professional development programs and mentoring options, with a view to improving consistency, quality and conditions for members.
- Actively pursue possible partnerships and funding bodies in establishing a national Secretariat (paid) position to work on behalf of ASLIA, as our profile continues to increase and the workload and future potential for the association multiplies.

In conclusion

The assistance and support of the National Representative Council members this past year in the Council's first year of activity has been very rewarding. Some states experienced a few teething problems in initially establishing a workable arrangement at a local level for their representatives, but feedback has generally been very positive in regard to the Council. In particular the smaller states (in terms of practitioner representation, not necessarily geographical size) report feeling better informed of ASLIA National and interstate issues than they were previously.

The Council members in the past 12 months have included (underlined names are current members):-

NSW – Kerry Lakeman, Dani Fried

Vic – Kim Saxton, Danielle Hargreaves, Tanya Miller, Eliza Allen

SA – De Brown, Leanne Beer

ACT – Allyson Guy

Tas – Leissa Dane, Priscilla Young

Qld – Lesleigh Brennan, Danielle Vicary-Smith

WA – Robyn Tsapazi

In closing, the expertise of every member of the ASLIA National executive, the committee and the Project Officer is acknowledged with sincere appreciation and gratitude. Without such a knowledgeable, highly motivated, hard working and talented team, our many accomplishments and the significant progress on behalf of the membership and the profession this past year would not have been possible. I am indebted to the team, and I feel extremely fortunate to work with them. For more detailed information on any of the fore-mentioned aspects of this report, please contact ASLIA National on info@aslia.com.au

Karen Bontempo
PRESIDENT